

# MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL DURHAM, NH 03824 ISSUE TWO DECEMBER 11, 2012



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*From senior Pranav Nanda, concerning the article  
"Administration Revision" by Adrian Schidlovsky.*



**Pranav Nanda**

To Mouth of the River,

I would like to thank the editor for letting me write a response to the article in the first edition of the *Mouth of the River*. In my opinion, the article written by Adrian Schidlovsky lacked integrity and was used as a personal attack rather than an opinion on two different class presidents. The first statement about me being president from sixth grade onwards is false; the first time I ran for president was at the end of 8th grade, not 6th grade as Adrian mentioned. The statement "nobody dared to run against Nanda until elections came around the end of

last year" is also very alarming. Easy fact checking can figure out I was opposed in the 8th grade election by none other than the writer, Adrian.

The "money scandal" referred to multiple times was a created concept by the writer. What it refers to is the difference in amount of money in the bank between September during Spirit Week and the end of May when the election took place. During that time the senate purchased \$533.90 worth of seat cushions to sell and also paid for prom. That fact was not hidden from anyone, and during the time the senate and I would not lie about the number to set a false hope. If people were under a wrong impression, I am sorry, but I would not consider it a "money scandal" of any sort.

Lastly, according to senior Seamus Clancy, after the article was published multiple sources said that half the quotes were made up. I heard it from a few people, so I decided to ask him myself. Clancy responded saying over text message, "He [Adrian] just made up half of a quote that made me sound stupid so I told skelly [Mr. Kelly, the teacher in charge of MOR] about it." He actually did approach Mr. Kelly about the issue later. Further in our conversation Seamus elaborated by saying when I asked if it's okay to bring up in my response Clancy said "Yeah that's fine, I don't think it's his place to write about your presidency when he can't even put it together accurately."

I am very disappointed in this article and don't think it deserved to be published in the MOR. It was lacking substance, actual information along with using "made up quotes" in order to attack an individual. I think it was created because of a personal vendetta and put in the paper to try to attack me rather than state an opinion on my presidency or Brennan's. They are ways to state an opinion, but making false claims, reporting made up quotes and lacking information is not one of them. I hope that in the future an article attacking an individual or group such as this one does not make it into the newspaper.

Pranav Nanda

*From senior Zack Jones, concerning the article  
"Senate Got A Say?" by Chase Klewicki.*

To Mouth of the River,

As a student senate we DO represent the students' opinions. Before my time on senate, open-campus was a change that was initiated by the senate. Last year we looked into the issue of weighted grades and class rank. After much research, there was no need for change and the subject was dropped. We are not sure of what we are looking to do this year, so if any students have any problems that they would like to be addressed, we would gladly invite them to share their concerns.



**Zack Jones**

Many people are probably angry because there is no more grinding—while this is understandable, there is NOTHING senate could have done about this. Despite being a voice for the students, we in no way have the power to overturn something done by the administration in terms of a decision like this. There were reasons why this was done, some of which were legal problems which we cannot attest to because we are not the ones who would be hiring a lawyer when a parent files a lawsuit against the school because their son or daughter felt extremely uncomfortable at a school sponsored event.

When I was interviewed for the article about senate, it was my first time being an elected senator and we were completely swamped planning spirit week and salvaging the homecoming dance. I felt as if the things I said were misused, but I will take responsibility for saying them and will choose my words more politically next time. Senate's major responsibility during the first few weeks of school was spirit week, an event which students love and this was what I was referring to as an annual event in which students are not really consulted because we know they so many people enjoy it.

Instead of complaining about something being broken and being part of the problem, why not try to fix it? It is an open senate, and as long as someone is not negatively affecting the meetings then they are welcome to attend and contribute their thoughts and ideas. As far as the rest of the year goes, Senate is looking for an issue to take on. Anyone out there who has something to say, please say it and we will try our best to represent you.

Zack Jones



Do you have any comments or concerns about this issue? Contact Mouth of the River through Mr. Kelly (Room T112), Facebook, Formspring, or any of our staff members!

## A LETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD EDITOR

*Dear Oyster River,*

Oh hey, didn't see you there. Allow me to introduce myself: my name is Adelia Couser, and I am your editor-in-chief this year. I like long walks on the beach and candlelit dinners. My star sign is Taurus. I am the coolest senior in the school. (Not really.) HMU.

Anyway, welcome to this year's second edition of *Mouth of the River*! I am proud to say that our awesome staff worked hard on it for a solid 55 minutes a day, five days a week, so please take the time to look through it and enjoy articles such as Life After High School (written by me), an Apocalypse FAQ (also by me), and of course the Horoscopes (written by yours truly). There's also great stuff like a Holiday Bucket List by Corey, PEP PROGRAM (a day in the life of a preschool student) by Andrew, Working Hard or Hardly Working (an article about the Guidance department) by Chase, and some sick Sports Previews by the Sports department. We also have an all-new Advice Column to answer your deepest questions and soothe your darkest fears. Wow!!!

MOR strives to present the Oyster River community with a variety of captivating and informative stories that represent the voice of the student body. (Isn't that the best mission statement you've ever read?) We have a couple of letters to the editor this issue from Pranav Nanda and Zack Jones, and I'd like to thank them for writing and encourage anyone who has any comments, concerns, compliments, or critiques about this issue to contact us. We won't bite.

Also, here is your fun fact for the month: did you know that Norwegian scientists have hypothesized that Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system?

Cool.

Thank you for reading, thank you for support and love, and enjoy your holiday season! Good luck surviving the apocalypse.

*Love, Adelia.*



*I am Christmased to the max and  
100% ready for this year's  
holiday season.*

**Durham House  
of Pizza**



42 Main St. Durham NH

**868-2224**

**We Deliver**

HEY, MRS. VAN DYKE!

*What's it like being on the  
front cover of MOR?*

*"I'm super honored. I'm  
unbelievably excited. I feel like a  
super star. You can't see it on the  
cover, but I'm smiling so hard  
behind the newspaper I'm  
holding up."*

**NEXT ISSUE:  
FEBRUARY 12TH!**





# OYSTER RIVER IN A TRANCE

HYPNOSIS ENTERTAINER PETER MAMOS COMES TO OYSTER RIVER



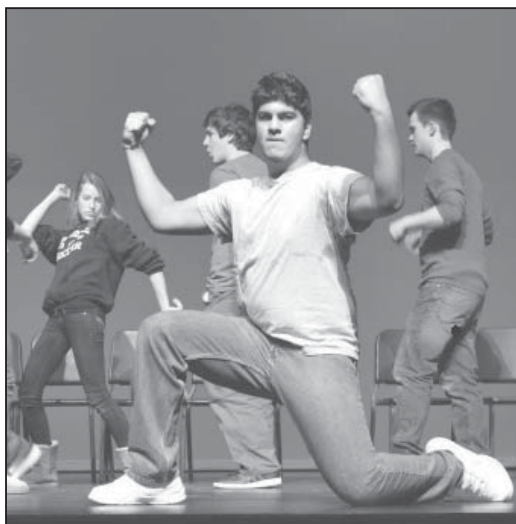
**Corey Scarano**  
News Editor

"I had no control to be 'normal' even if I wanted to," says Molly McQuade, one of the many students who were hypnotized at the show put on by the junior class on November 22nd. This year the star of the show was Peter Mamos, a hypnosis entertainer and magician who has lived in New Hampshire his entire life. He has done shows throughout the Caribbean and Mexican Riviera as an entertainer for Carnival Cruise Lines.

Mamos started the show by performing interactive activities for the entire audience to do to see who would be a good hypnosis candidate. For example, Mamos asked the audience to look at him and follow what he said. He started by saying, "Touch your chin, touch your nose, touch your chin..." and touched these facial features as he spoke. The crowd followed as Mamos then said "touch your chin," but instead touched his eye, making many in the crowd also touch their eye. Those who fell for this were encouraged to go up on stage when volunteers were asked for.

When the final volunteers were selected, Mamos started the hypnosis. Calm music played and the lights dimmed to a light purple, the volunteers were asked to shut their eyes and think of a peaceful place. Prompts like this continued for a few minutes. He asked for those who were still aware of the crowd after the start to quietly walk off stage because that meant it was not working for them.

Once those who remained on stage were success-



*Pranav Nanda when asked to give the audience his best pose.*

fully "hypnotized," the show consisted of Mamos giving scenarios and cues to them to react to. At a point he had them imagine they were driving a car and then would play certain types of music for them to react to. "Call Me Maybe" by Carly Rae Jepsen came on and all the volunteers started dancing and singing along loudly. After giving cues to all of them, Mamos started selecting certain volunteers to do specific things when a certain word was said.

For example, Pranav Nanda was told whenever he heard the words "Oyster River" that his dear cat, Fluffy, was missing and the only way to find Fluffy was to yell its name in the highest pitched voice he could. Minutes later, Mamos casually used the words "Oyster River" in a sentence and Nanda stood right up and started running around

the auditorium yelling Fluffy in a shriek. Clearly, this made the crowd laugh hysterically. So next, Mamos told Matt Segil whenever he heard the word "fun" that he was a police of Durham, and laughing was illegal. When the word "fun" was dropped, Matt stood up assertively as the crowd laughed. He yelled to the crowd, "You can't laugh in my town!"



*Mamos hypnotising the students on stage.*

Segil reflects on the show, saying, "It was hard to tell [if I was hypnotized]; part of me knew what was happening but at the same time I was very relaxed and things were fuzzy. I did things with my eyes open with clarity but didn't really know why I was doing it. There is no way I would have done half of those things had I been fully coherent."

The night ended with a prompt making the volunteers believe they were all five years old again at Sesame Street. Mamos asked them to make the funniest faces they could without being caught by him, so when Mamos turned his back, the volunteers all made crazy faces. The crowd laughed loudly as the volunteers tried desperately not to get caught.

The night ended with Mamos awakening the volunteers one by one, but telling them when they woke up they would think the show was yet to start. But also said, when he was to snap his fingers, it would all come back to them. When the volunteers woke up, all were clearly confused and even in denial that the show had started yet, but just like Mamos said, when he snapped his fingers, the volunteers laughed and blushed, quickly remembering the entire show and the things they had done.



*The hypnotized volunteers dancing to YMCA.*

Matthew Segil, treasurer of the junior class says, "It is hard to get a lot of people to come to events like this. As a fundraiser we probably barely broke even but it was a lot of fun as a community event." Claire Hawkes, president of the senior class leaves us with, "I think it was a good show, based on the crowds reactions I think everyone who went had a good time."

## WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE APOCALYPSE 2012 F.A.Q.



**Adelia Couser**  
*Editor in Chief*

Volcanoes! Asteroids! Floods! Fires! On December 21, 2012, the people of the world may be facing some troubling occurrences. However, here at Oyster River High School, a guide has been put together to help students through this rough time. Read on to find out how to best prepare yourself for the apocalypse of 2012.

**Q: What exactly is an apocalypse?**

**A:** A-POC-A-LYPSE. [*uh-pok-uh-lips*] noun. The complete final destruction of the world; an event involving destruction or damage on a catastrophic scale.

**Q: Who or what caused this?**

**A:** Most people credit the ancient Mayan civilization with predicting the December 2012 apocalypse. The Mayans were a Native American tribe located in present-day Mexico from 2000 BC - 900 AD; they were known worldwide for their knowledge of architecture, mathematics, art, and science. The Mayans believed that according to their calendar, called the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar, December 21st will mark the end date of a 5,125-year-long cycle. A steady series of events over time (such as increasingly common natural disasters and the deterioration of the environment) would lead to an ultimate "spiritual awakening" for the world, and that awakening will take place on 12/21/12.

Other explanations people have offered for the apocalypse include the alignment of various stars and planets, the invasion of aliens, sunspot cycles flipping the sun's magnetic field and causing natural disasters, the beginning of a new term of the zodiac, or the Earth's collision with a black hole.

**Q: So what's going to happen?**

- 1.) *Super-volcanoes will erupt.* A super-volcanic eruption is one that's so big, it causes long-lasting changes to the weather, like ice ages. It has the potential to wipe out entire species and cover the earth with lava and ash. Super-volcanoes also release billions of metric tons of sulfuric acid into the air, causing acid rain.
- 2.) *Asteroids will crash into the earth.* "433 Eros" is the 2nd-largest asteroid near the Earth that could possibly crash into our home planet during the Apocalypse. Upon impact, it would create a bowl-shaped crater about 300,000 feet in diameter. The shock of the impact would cause magnitude 10 earthquakes (greater magnitudes than any earthquake to ever exist). It will also cause a tsunami 160-330 feet high.
- 3.) *Weather disturbances will occur.* Due to unknown causes, there will be an increased frequency in the amount of floods, fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, and earthquakes.
- 4.) *Disease and War.* Expect to see a second Black Plague slowly spreading throughout the earth, accompanied by the initiation of World War III.

**Q: What should I do?**

**A:** The *Mouth of the River* staff has spent months, even years, researching this phenomenon; their expert advice is offered below.

"Get your cat and some food and hide in the basement—just wait it out." -Corey.

"Fill your bathtub with clean water. There's a good chance you won't be able to get any later, and people can only survive three days without it." -Skelly.

"Start digging now. Get to the center of the earth; I've heard it's pretty warm down there." -Eliza.

"Get lots of guns." -Ian.

"Head for the hills...or white mountains, and pack a bag." -Aaron.



MOR writers Corey Scarano and Eliza Brown lament at the arrival of the apocalypse. (Photo credit: Ian Avery-Leaf)

"Get a gun, get some MREs [military food that lasts forever], get some warm clothes, and find a prison to live in." -Adrian.

"Do whatever you want; you're going to die anyway." -Emma.

"Nothing. I'm not gonna let this happen." -Will Smith from *I Am Legend*.

**Q: Does anybody really take these things seriously?**

**A:** As a matter of fact, yes. Earlier this year, 89-year-old Harold Camping made a prediction that the world would end on May 21st. While most of the world took Camping's words with a grain of salt, there were some people who believed him strongly. California resident Lyn Benedetto forced her two daughters to lie down in bed and then cut their throats with a box cutter before trying to kill herself. (Amazingly, all three of them survived.) In Taiwan, a man jumped out of a building because he feared recent earthquakes and tsunamis were signs of the approaching Doomsday. A French government agency called MIVILUDES (in English: "Interministerial Mission for Monitoring and Combatting Cultic Deviances"), which observes potentially harmful groups and warns the public of possible risks, has issued a warning to the government that a mass number of suicides can be expected as the apocalypse date draws near.

**Q: What if the apocalypse doesn't happen?**

**A:** Don't worry! December 23rd is the alternative date for the apocalypse, since a small number of Mayanist researchers believe that this day is the actual completion of the 5,125-year-long cycle. Good luck.



*"I now understand why Elvis died on the toilet." -John Meredith*



## FAUXBAMA

### RAISING AWARENESS BEFORE THE BIG ELECTION



**Ian Avery-Leaf**  
Media Manager

Crowds of students, staff, parents, and more filled the ORHS auditorium on Friday, November 2nd. Everyone was gathered to view students from Citizen Education classes as they impersonated presidential candidates, vice presidents and their campaign managers, and even secret service workers too.

The event was organized so students could experience the democratic process firsthand, as well as get some public speaking experience. With the auditorium filled with hundreds of people, going up onstage "was pretty nerve-racking" said sophomore Liam O'Rourke.

With the election only four days away, congresswoman and ORHS alumni Carol Shea Porter sent Oyster River a letter that was read at the event. "Participating in the electoral process is both a right and a responsibility," expressed Porter. This last minute message was intended on urging staff and of-age students to cast their vote.

Starting with Paul Ryan's campaign manager and ending with Obama, every candidate and their manager

prepared and read a small speech to the crowd, based only upon the candidate's true beliefs and views on issues.

Gretyl MacAlaster, a journalist from the Union Leader in Manchester, attended the event so she could compare it to a real rally. She had never been to a high school mock rally before and thought the amount of work students put into it was "impressive".

The campaign managers for Ryan and Biden were impersonated by Marina Schwadron and Leah Mueller, and Romney and Obama's managers were Jocelyn Tavares and Sophie Webb. Paul Ryan and Joe Biden were Liam O'Rourke and Tim Stringer. Giving the finishing speeches of the event, Peter Dubois acted as Mitt Romney and Emily Croot as Barack Obama.

Staying true to the candidates positions was a challenge for the participants, but there was enough research done for an accurate portrayal from everyone. The amount of research done for the speeches varied, and O'Rourke already knew a lot of what went into his speech, "I do enjoy politics and payed attention during the campaign." Knowing your own candidates opinions are crucial, but Croot made sure to know everyone's opinions, while writing her speech, "I had to research both sides of major issues."

None of the mock candidates thought their speeches influenced anyones vote, "a high school student advocating political views probably won't change somebody's opinion" states Croot. Whether they changed opinions or not, all the students involved certainly raised awareness of the election that was less than four days away from the event.

*"It was pretty nerve-racking."  
-Liam O'Rourke*



**Cam Messer**  
Opinion Editorial

Music, coffee and chocolate chip cookies filled the halls of the multi-purpose room on the 11th of October.

With a crowds in the tens and twenties, the multi-purpose room transformed into a warm indie music parlor.

Held at the school from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, students gathered on mats and chairs drinking coffee and eating sweets. This event was organized by Pit- a student based club which

is responsible for planning the Coffee Houses. Senior Griffin Sinclair-Wingate considers himself one of the many organizers of Pit.

## COFFEE HOUSE

"It [the coffee house] was decent for the first one" Sinclair-Wingate comments, but admits that there could have been a better turn out.

"I am always impressed with the talent in this school," praises senior Hannah Grant. Talent was the theme of the night, with styles ranging from twangy acoustic to heavy blues and rock and roll. The performing artists held their audiences captive for the full two hours.

*"It is really cool hearing talent you don't  
hear every day..." -Jason Rubinstein*



From left to right: David DePasquale, Jake Smith and Griffin-Sinclair Wingate playing at the October Coffee House.

Senior Jason Rubinstein agrees that the talent here at Oyster River is immense. "It is really cool hearing talent you don't hear everyday; I have been to one [coffee house], but I am not used to the talent yet" he adds.

"It's a lot of work to organize events" Sinclair-Wingate says. Responsible for the sound system, picking up the coffee, and making sure there are artists to perform and clean up, Sinclair-Wingate is as much behind the curtain as he is in front of it. A nine-year musician, Sinclair-Wingate has played the guitar for many crowds. From open mic night at local Newmarket coffee parlor: Crackskull's or basement jams, he comments: "The coffee house here have an accepting atmosphere; I have never heard someone say they have regretted playing here."

Pit hopes to organize at least six more coffee houses this school year. In the near future, Pit is holding a Coffee House on December 13th. As far as artist line ups, Sinclair-Wingate hopes to have a larger variety of music as well as people putting up their art, reading poetry, dancing and any other self-expression.

If you are interested in participating or performing at the next concert, contact Sinclair-Wingate for more information.



**Adrian Schidlovsky**  
Op-Ed Writer

## SCHOOL CHANGE PARADIGM

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS

In 2005, schools in the state of New Hampshire began requiring graduates to make a digital portfolio as an essential piece to graduating. Students were told freshman year about the digital portfolios and how to fill them up, but were never told what the Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) standards are for assessing them.

Students are assessed on work they have completed from grades K-12 in different categories such as creativity and

innovation, communication and collaboration, research and information fluency, critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making, digital citizenship, and technology operations and concepts.

Oyster River High School has provided suggestions for artifacts for the different sections. These suggestions are located in the lower, right hand corner. "There will be stuff done in every class that gets put in the digital portfolios. Teachers should be telling you which assignments are for the digital portfolios, showing you how to put them in, and doing the reflection with them...this year is a mandate," stated Robert Quaglieri, high school health teacher.

"Last year's class had a reduced load, this year's class has a reduced load, next year there will be more added to them, and getting down to this year's freshman class (2016) it will be full," Quaglieri explained.

"The biggest response we got from last year's class was 'this isn't that hard...it doesn't even take a long time,'" he continued.

Fred Bramante is the co-author of the new book, *Off the Clock: Moving Education from Time to Competency*. A past chairman and a long standing member of the New Hampshire State Board of Education, Bramante has some radical views on education. He is one of the initiators of the digital portfolios.

"School taught me that I was not very bright. Life taught me that school was wrong."  
-Fred Bramante

After getting to know Mr. Bramante, it was clear he was not happy with the education system in place today. "It's 180 days a year. It's first quarter, second quarter, third quarter, fourth quarter, first grade, second grade, 8th grade, 10th grade. 7:30 to 3 o'clock. It's all about time, and achievement becomes your variable. And, you know, kids get A's, B's, C's, and D's, and they still pass the course." Bramante exclaimed "We only care that kids learn! And that could happen in a traditional classroom environment. That could happen online. That could happen in a real world environment, morning, noon, or night. It could happen weekdays, weekends. It could happen vacations, during traditional school vacations. It could happen in summertime. We really don't care!" There are many ways that New Hampshire offers students to learn. With these different ways, there has to be a way to make sure students are getting a relatively precise education that parallels with traditional classes.

Fred Bramante is working hard for students to have a better in-school experience than he had. "School taught me that I was not very bright. Life taught me that school was wrong."

Students can look forward to see further changes in the school system, because it is not built for every student equally. Digital portfolios and digital learning is an easy way for the State of New Hampshire to recognise consistent learning gaps in New Hampshire schools.



Fred Bramante, author "Off the Clock: Moving Education from Time to Competency." (Courtesy of [schoolbriefing.com](http://schoolbriefing.com))

Creativity and Innovation	World Language Project
Communication and collaboration	Health drug project, American History powerpoint
Research and information fluency	Powerpoint of french or spanish cultures, stock market game from economics, human research project from mass media, or research from debate and persuasion
Critical thinking and decision making	House design in CAD from Computer Integrated Math class, or data analysis project from finite math class
Digital citizenship	Photo/video project from french or spanish class is recommended
Technology Operations and Concepts	Webquests for research on french and spanish speaking countries, intro to adobe final project, or the stock market game for economics

### Suggestions for DP Artifacts

### MR. KELLY SPEAKS OUT!

(on being married)

"It's great. The best thing was the wedding—it lasted the whole weekend and it was a lot of fun. Instead of cake we had ice cream—chocolate, vanilla, and black raspberry—and dinner was pizza. The biggest difference between being married and being single is the holidays; you have to make sure you visit everyone, and there's a lot more driving around. But [my wife and I] got a pizza stone peel for a wedding gift, so we can make delicious pizza anytime."



"I can just YOLO everywhere!" -Rebecca Taylor

## COMMUNITY-CAY SERVICE-SAY



**Adelia Couser**  
Editor in Chief

Every year, dozens of ORHS students selflessly take time out of their lives to help others in their communities.

"The high school community service program is sort of an 'umbrella program' for nine different activities that go on," says supervisor Kathy Pearce. "Each activity has between one and four student coordinators who make the service happen.

Pearce says that the kids who participate in community service "obviously enjoy it." She explains that community service is about helping the community and "not just racking

up hours. Students who volunteer definitely get a sense of satisfaction from having made a difference."

Below is a list of the nine community services. If any of these activities sound interesting to you, feel free to contact Ms. Pearce, Ms. Wilkinson, or any of the coordinators listed for that service. They will help you get involved in any way they can!

**If you like preparing and serving food while socializing, you should join SOUP KITCHEN!**

**Coordinators:** Madi Clement/Blake Caple.

**Dates of service:** The first Tuesday of every month from 3:45pm-6:30pm.

**What we do:** We start by cooking food at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in Portsmouth, setting tables, and cleaning everything. Then we serve the people who come in and socialize with them for an hour, and finish up by cleaning the tables and kitchen.

**Rules:** You have to be 16 to volunteer. Dress appropriately.

**Additional information:** Soup Kitchen is currently looking for underclassmen to join, since a majority of the volunteers will be graduating this year.

**Why should you do it:** "It's really fun and it's not strenuous," says coordinator Blake Caple. "Also, it's only once a month so it's not a huge commitment." Co-coordinator Madi Clement adds, "You get to form really great relationships with people that are there; they're nice and respectful, and a lot of them are just really glad that you're helping your community."

**If you like animals, you should join COCHECO VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY!**

**Coordinators:** Emma Sosa/Sedona Clothier.

**Dates of service:** The second and fourth Tuesdays of every month from 3:30-4:30pm.

**What we do:** The paid staff takes care of feeding the animals and tending to their medical needs, so they need us to play with animals and socialize with them because that's an important part of the adoption process.

**Rules:** No open-toed shoes, no tank tops, jeans are preferable, and you need an orientation before you can start volunteering. (You can either contact one of the coordinators to set up an orientation, or you could get in touch with Cocheco on their website and they'll set one up.)

**Additional information:** The volunteer program is full for this year, but we are definitely looking for people to volunteer next year. However, if you really, really want to join, talk to one of the coordinators.

**Why you should do it:** "Cocheco is one of the most fun ways to get service hours," says coordinator Emma Sosa. "You're doing really good things by helping out the animals and the Humane Society, since the shelter is definitely in need and they really appreciate students' help."



Current seniors Madi Clement and Evan Howard in costume at the 2011 Relay for Life event.

**If you like helping people and are patient, you should join VISITATION TO THE ELDERLY!**

**Coordinators:** Sophie Webb/Jialin Shi/Annie Batchelder.

**Dates of service:** The first and third Mondays of every month.

**What we do:** We usually have six kids go per trip to Kirkwood Corners Nursing Home in Lee, and there are preplanned activities waiting for us. Every time we go there are new activities; one day we might read, another day we'll play games like cribbage, and we can also make crafts and color.

**Rules:** Dress appropriately and be happy.

**Additional information:** Kirkwoods is one of the only community service events with a bus to transport volunteers – this is helpful for those who don't have a ride. Unfortunately we are not accepting new members, but if you want to sign up then talk to the coordinators or Ms. Wilkinson.

**Why you should do it:** "You have fun! You get to visit elderly people and put a smile on their faces," says coordinator Jialin Shi. "It's not even like volunteering, because you make somebody's life that much better and they're so appreciative of your help. Also, some of the stories they tell are very entertaining."

**If you like wrapping presents, then you should join HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING!**

**Coordinator:** Laurel Gibson.

**Dates of service:** Throughout December.

**What we do:** Holiday Gift Wrapping is a fundraiser for the salvation army. Students who participate work at a gift wrapping table at the Fox Run Mall where shoppers can make donations in exchange for their presents being wrapped.

**Rules:** Smile!

**Additional information:** This is a good community service event for people who are too busy to make weekly or monthly commitments.

**Why you should do it:** "It's fun and the money goes to a great cause," says coordinator Laurel Gibson. "All you have to sign up for is a few hours one weekend, but you're welcome to sign up for more!"



"You didn't know that small infants can live in muffins?" -Blake Caple



**If you like getting gifts for others, then you should join HOLIDAY STOCKINGS!**

**Coordinators:** Abby Howard Emily Howard.

**Dates of service:** Throughout December.

**What we do:** We raise money (usually by having a bake sale) to buy stockings for Crossroads House in Portsmouth to give to underprivileged families. Volunteers take stockings, fill them, and bring them back with about \$5 to \$10 worth of stocking stuffers. We also go around to focus groups to see if they want to fill a certain amount of stockings as a group.

**Rules:** Once you get a stocking, commit to filling it.

**Additional information:** It is not a huge commitment; our volunteers usually attend a first meeting, help us raise the initial money for the stockings, and then once they get one they can buy all the stocking stuffers on their own time and just bring them back on the day that they are due.

**Why you should do it:** "This service makes me feel really good because I know that I am bringing someone joy for the Holidays who might not ordinarily get a stocking," says coordinator Abby Howard. "It is not a big commitment, but it definitely makes a difference!"

**If you like directly helping people, then you should join SPECIAL OLYMPICS!**

**Coordinators:** Sam Lewis/Jialin Shi.

**Dates of service:** Throughout the year; at least one event per month.

**What we do:** We interact with mentally challenged athletes in the Special Olympics by taking them to their event, talking to them, and generally enjoying time with them.

**Rules:** Follow the school dress code and treat the athletes like they are no different from you.

**Why you should do it:** "Special Olympics is not a service where you don't see your help going into the activity," says coordinator Sam Lewis. "You get to see the immediate effect, because you take an athlete somewhere personally. If you want the interaction and the ability to see what your work is doing, then this is the service for you; they're some of the happiest and nonjudgemental people you'll ever meet."

**If you like working with kids, then you should join FIFTH GRADE MENTORING!**

**Coordinators:** John Parsons/David Chen.

**Dates of service:** The second and third Thursday of every month from 2:30pm-4pm.

**What we do:** Mentors come from 2:30 to 4:00 and hang out with fifth graders. We play games with them — often against them — and they are very competitive! Our activities range from wall ball to Jeopardy to Olympic-style events.

**Rules:** The school dress code still applies.

**Additional information:** "Everyone who does fifth grade mentoring, both the mentors and the mentored, absolutely loves the program" says coordinator John Parsons. "Doing it is a decision I promise you won't regret!"

**Why you should do it:** "You get a real sense of fulfillment from seeing kids who've done the program around [Durham] and having them remember your name," explains Parsons. "You know you've made a positive impact in someone's life — who knows where that person might've ended up without you? It's really a fabulous opportunity for all!"

**If you like caring for the environment, then you should join BEACH CLEAN-UP!**

**Coordinator:** Pranav Nanda.

**Dates of service:** One Saturday a month in the springtime.

**What we do:** We go to the beaches of the New Hampshire coast and clean them up. We are also looking to expand on it and do more than beaches.

**Rules:** Dress for the outdoors. Be prepared to pick up trash.

**Additional information:** Coordinator Pranav Nanda recommends that you go with a group of your friends to maximize the experience, since it's more fun with other people than going alone.

**Why you should do it:** "It helps our local community, and the difference it makes can be seen right away," says Nanda. "It is also a lot of fun and gives people an excuse to go outside and enjoy New Hampshire."

**Relay for Life**

**Coordinators:** Kiersten Anderson/Pranav Nanda/Sam Lewis/Erika Ireland

**Dates of service:** Throughout the year, then a major event in June.

**What we do:** Relay for Life is an event that benefits the American Cancer Society. The goal of Relay is to support and aid people who have been affected by cancer (including survivors, caretakers, and family members) as well as respect those who may have lost the fight. In Relay for Life we spend all year raising money for cancer research. We form teams and spend November through April planning our Prom Fashion Show, which is our biggest fundraiser. (For the fashion show, we make decorations, advertise, go to local business for raffle items, think of themes, and have people volunteer to be models during the show.) At the end of the school year, we usually participate in the big Relay event in Hampton, but this year we decided to host our own mini Relay which will take place on Saturday, June 1st, from 2pm -12am on the Varsity Field.

**Rules:** The only thing that you have to do once you have made the commitment is raise \$100. It sounds like a lot of money, but if you do it over a period of time and set goals for yourself it is really fun and rewarding! There is also a limit for how many people can be on a team; the limit is around 10 people, although we're not going to tell you to kick people off your team if you have more than 10. You also do not need 10 people to join a team; if you want to be a part of Relay but your friends won't join with you, let a coordinator know and we will happily find a team for you!

**Additional information:** There are a few changes being made to Relay this year. Normally we go to Hampton for the Relay event; it takes place on a track and we are with a bunch of other relay teams from around the area. This year we decided to host our own mini relay here at ORHS. We are still going to have different laps, including the opening ceremony, the Survivor Lap, and Luminaria (celebrating those who passed away from cancer). Each team has their own "campsite" which they can decorate. There is a different theme for each hour, and teams dress up as whatever the theme is for that lap and go around the track with their team. The idea of a Relay is to symbolize that cancer never stops. Only ORHS teams will participate, as well as community members who are invited for the Survivor Lap and Luminaria. Parents are also welcome. Even though the school Relay event will be smaller, it is still an actual Relay for Life event and students involved still have to register and will get t-shirts.

**Why you should do it:** "Everyone knows someone who has had cancer, and [Relay for Life] is a fun and rewarding way to show your support and raise money for cancer research," says coordinator Erika Ireland, and co-coordinator Pranav Nanda agrees, adding, "I know that Relay has changed my life due to the experiences I have had. The school Relay is going to be filled with music and fun lap events, and many great memories will be made."

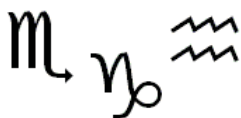


# HOROSCOPES!



**Adelia Couser**  
Editor in Chief

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SAGITTARI, CAPRICORNS, AND AQUARI!



### Aries (March 21-April 19)

*MOR staff matches: None.*

You've never really been much for holiday cheer, and you've often been ridiculed by your family and friends for being so serious. However, this year YOU will be the one who's laughing, because while everyone else was singing carols and shopping early on Black Friday, you were stockpiling supplies for the apocalypse on December 21st! Ha ha! While everyone else is running around in a panic, you'll be sitting comfortably in your thick-walled underground shelter. Good for you!

### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

*MOR staff matches: Zach Park (4/23), Adelia Couser (5/11).*

"Sleigh bells ring, aren't you listening..." NO! You weren't listening! You weren't listening to your mother when she told you to wear your bulky winter coat in these freezing temperatures! Consequently, while trying to look cool in front of your friends, you will become a human icicle. Enjoy...?

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

*MOR staff matches: Cam Messer (6/16), Corey Scarano (6/19).*

It's hard for you to stick to your New Year's resolutions, but this year you will have more success! On New Year's Day, Gaston himself (from the Disney classic *Beauty and the Beast*) will appear by your side to shout your resolutions into your ears 24/7! Who could fail to keep goals with that motivation?

### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

*MOR staff matches: China Wong (7/12).*

The holiday season tends to stress you out because you don't like conflict or confusion, but don't worry; this year, Santa has come up with your perfect gift. You will awake on Christmas morning surrounded by elves, and they'll be cooking your breakfast and preparing to make your day as relaxing as possible. Enjoy your homemade waffles, salon-worthy massage, and soothing yoga session!

### Leo (July 23-August 22)

*MOR staff matches: Eliza Brown (8/4).*

Let's face it: you really like getting what you want...all the time. (It's a trait of the Leo.) Therefore, this Christmas will be your dream come true; you will receive every single present you have ever wanted in your entire life! Unfortunately, this means that no one else in the world will get any. Sorry.

### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

*MOR staff matches: None.*

While you're walking down the streets of Durham on December 21st, the sky will suddenly grow dark. A flash of lightning will strike the ground in front of you, and you'll fall down to see a horde of zombies tottering towards you: arms outstretched, moaning, everything. Will you survive the apocalypse? You'll just have to wait and see...



### Libra (September 23-October 22)

*MOR staff matches: Ian Avery-Leaf (9/26), Mr. Kelly (9/27), Emma Salvati (10/11), Adrian Schidlovsky (10/12).*

If you think you're in for another boring New Year's party this year, you are very, very wrong! While lounging on the couch at your relative's house and wanting to die from boredom, the lights will suddenly go out and a blast of thunder will shake the room. A gigantic disco ball will crash through the ceiling, rotating at supersonic speeds, and blind everyone in the room. Once the guests recover, the rest of the party will be great!

### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

*MOR staff matches: Chase Klewicki (9/18).*

The visions of sugarplums dancing in your head on Christmas Eve will abruptly be interrupted by a loud banging on your front door! Awake, cold, and scared, you will answer the door to find none other than your hero Mariah Carey standing there! After shoving flowers into your face, the singer will perform a personal Christmas concert just for you! (How fortunate, because Christmas is the only time her songs get played on the radio.) Congratulations!

### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

*MOR staff matches: None.*

Everyone knows that Christmas is a fantastic season for love, and the stars have recently aligned to declare your optimal partner for next year: You are destined to spend time with a Capricorn! Some helpful hints: they tend to work too much, so take them out for a romantic dinner or a relaxing walk on Hampton Beach. You can lend them your jacket; even though you'll be freezing cold, chances are they'll love it so much that they'll profess your love for you on the spot. Wow! What a great start to the new year!

### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

*MOR staff matches: None.*

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..." And it'll be even more wonderful since Jupiter and Saturn have pronounced your optimal partner for next year to be Sagittarius! They're 99.9% optimists, so they'll love it if you surprise them with a 6-foot-tall Christmas stocking. Guess who's inside...YOU IN A SANTA SUIT, WITH CHRISTMAS SONGS BLARING! WOW! Enjoy your life together!

### Aquarius (January 20-February 19)

*MOR staff matches: Aaron Slepian (2/4).*

Becoming Morin for a day was a scary experience, but thankfully you got it sorted out without too much trouble. In order to avoid this ever happening again, however, you have decided to never show physical displays of happiness or joy. (That single high five turned you into Morin.) While talking loudly to your friends about how much you hate the holiday spirit, you will suddenly be blinded by a flash of light! You'll fall to the floor, head spinning, and difficult post-calculus equations will blossom into your mind. It's happened again. You have become Mr. Reeves.

### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

*MOR staff matches: Nick Lazar (2/24), Andrew Gass (3/2).*

You forgot about your last battle-axe experience, didn't you?! If only you'd been paying more attention, because the saga is about to worsen. Beware of fruits like bananas, apples, strawberries, and cantelopes - they may be laced with tiny battle-axes similar to the one in the watermelon last time. In addition, look out for tiny singing elves that may or may not be dancing - their eyes may actually be lasers with the sole intent of destroying you. Good luck.



"I need delicious, artery-clogging, high-calorie pancakes in my system NOW." -Madi Clement



**Emma Salvati**  
Features Writer

## THE BULLY PROJECT

On October 23, the freshman and sociology classes of Oyster River High School went on a field trip to see the documentary 'Bully.' The documentary, directed by Lee Hirsch, follows the lives of five middle and high school students who have been victims of bullying. Some scenes were powerful enough to bring the viewers to tears.

We see 12-year-old Alex get punched, stabbed, and abused on a bus on his way to school. 16-year-old Kelsby and her family are ostracized by their town after she comes out as a lesbian. She is constantly harassed by her classmates and teachers, but refuses to leave the small town of Tuttle, Oklahoma. Kirk and Laura Smalley launched an anti-bully organization in response to their 11-year-old son committing suicide after bullying-related incidents.



A scene from the movie 'Bully' directed by Lee Hirsch.  
Image courtesy of facinghistory.org

Whether we believe it or not, these unfortunate events are occurring all around the country. Often times the victims are silent, and go through every day without others being aware of their silent cries for help. Without knowing, we could even be the bully ourselves,

most of the time without being aware of what we are doing. The biggest change in bullying has occurred online through social media; on websites such as Facebook and Myspace.

This generation of high school and middle school students has grown up online, and social networking has become a part of our everyday lives. The screen in front of us gives the opportunity to be whoever we want to be. Someone online can be completely different than who they are in real life, giving a window to treat others poorly without consequence. Oyster River High School may not seem have a large problem with in-school bullying, but cyber-bullying can happen to anyone at any time.

Following the field trip, there was a discussion with sociology students and members of the freshman class. Some of the main issues that arose described the negative use of social networks and the abundance of rumors at the school. In a school with about 680 students, rumors can spread like wildfire. One of the worst things that can happen during someone's high school experience is discover that a rumor has been spread about them, and everyone believes something that is not true. Gossiping can be fun when with friends, but it hurts when it's about you.

Pam Raiford, the sociology and world cultures teacher at ORHS, believes that bullying is present at the high school. "It

*"People think that teasing is harmless, but it can be very cruel."*  
-Kailee Peek

certainly is not as extreme as the bullying in the film, but it is a part of the fabric of our community. Bullying here takes place in a subtle online dynamic. I hear kids talk about others

behind their backs; they know how to make other kids feel bad about themselves." Raiford took her class on this field trip because she believes it is a good educational experience, and people need to understand how important bullying is. "Some kids took away that it was sad but [believe that] we don't have a problem here in our school. I think the majority of the students know that bullying is a problem everywhere."

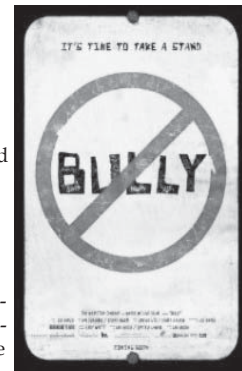
Kailee Peek, a senior who went to see the film, described it as "sad and depressing." She believes that although it is not as extreme as the bullying in the film, it is still here at Oyster River. "People interpret bullying in different ways," says Peek. "People think that teasing is harmless, but it can be very cruel." Peek recalls a scene in 'Bully' where a middle school boy walks through the hallway with a towel on his head, saying that someone smashed his head into a nail. The vice principal asks him what happened, but afterwards, appears to do nothing about it. "Here, something would be done," Peek describes. "We hardly tolerate people being mean to others."

"Educating the freshman class about bullying isn't the only goal," explains social studies teacher Matt Pappas. "This was a larger school initiative." Pappas believes that the film 'Bully' taught its viewers compassion and empathy towards the children who were being bullied. After leaving the theater, students were better informed on "what to do and how to react in these situations," says Pappas. "Kids need to talk to somebody if there's a problem. Most kids think 'it doesn't involve me.' But they need to stand up to bullies."

"What this movie provided me with was not a happy ending, but a bright future," says senior Frederik Svanholm. "Each person who had lost a loved one did something with that experience." Referring to the parents in the film who, in response to their own children's suicide, started anti-bullying programs. Svanholm believes that bullying comes out of 'mob-mentality,' where kids

will encourage others to bully either because it seems cool or it puts them in a position of power. 'Passive-aggressive' bullying is very common, more so than physical or verbal abuse. People tend to avoid confrontation, which leads to talking about others behind their backs. Rumors, lies, and name calling are common strategies for people who would rather avoid confrontation.

(Continued under "BULLY" on page 20)



The movie 'Bully' comes out on DVD in 2013.

Picture courtesy of <http://www.movieoncinema.com/the-bully-project/>

### What is Bullying?

Although definitions of bullying vary, most agree that bullying involves:

**Imbalance of Power:** people who bully use their power to control or harm and the people being bullied may have a hard time defending themselves.

**Intent to cause harm:** actions done by accident are not bullying; the person bullying has a goal to cause harm.

**Repetition:** incidents of bullying happen to the same the person over and over by the same person or group.

From [www.bullyproject.com](http://www.bullyproject.com).





## THE PEP PROGRAM



**Andrew Gass**  
Features Writer

"Mommy I made a new friend today!" the preschooler excitedly told his mother as she picked him up outside the high school. In those 20 seconds I had instantly become a celebrity within the PEP program. Spending 90 minutes with the PEP program was one of my best ideas ever; it brought me back to being a four year old again and made me forget that I was still in the high school and going to have to take a test later that day.

I took a large step out of my comfort zone as I opened the door to the PEP program. The kids were just finishing up coloring, something that I haven't done since I was about six. They all stayed focused on the drawings and paid no attention to the stranger, me, who had just walked in. I have to admit, I was a little disappointed. I was expecting a lot more excitement, more of a buzz about the room since I was a stranger.

The PEP program has been at Oyster River for 20 more years and was previously at Mast Way before moving to the high school. The student's range from ages three to five years old and there is a morning program and an afternoon program. This is the first time the program has really had its own space and has really benefited from it. "We even have bathrooms that are sized for the kids; everything is geared toward them," says PEP program teacher Jen, who is the main teacher for the kids. There are always at least three or four other teachers helping out as well. They have a speech pathologist that is always in the classroom along with the other teachers.

*"The best part is just interacting with the kids... It brightens my day."*  
-Claire Hawkes

### Preschool Memories from the MOR Department Editors:

ZACH: "Seeing all the pretty faces."

COREY: "Playing with LEGOs."

AARON: "The two-story playhouse at CSDC."

CHASE: "Going down the slide."

Snack time was next for the kids and each of them pulled out snacks that made me jealous. I enviously sat there watching them delve into juice boxes and goldfish among other things. It was one of the most organized snack times I'd ever seen; each kid sat calmly eating their food and not once was there ever an issue. Having an organized snack time is definitely one of the things I miss most about being a young kid. It allows for the kids to be social with their friends but also to practice man-

*"The kids can be difficult at times, but they always manage to make you smile everyday."*  
-Cece Cunningham

nners. There shouldn't be a single kid who didn't enjoy snack time; it was one of the best parts of pre-school. Even though my mom still packs me lunches, it will never be the same.

Being in the high school has benefited the program much more than just giving it a classroom. It also shows the kids new experiences and allows them to discover different aspects of life. "Everybody [the high schoolers] is very positive role models, and modeling the language that the kids need," says Jen about the students of Oyster River. She especially appreciates it when interns come in or students like me just come to

hang out for a little. "It's great because the kids get to experience a whole wide range of things."

Junior Cece Cunningham is one of these students who is currently doing an internship with the PEP program. She chose to work with the PEP program because early child development is something that has always been an interest to her. "The kids can be difficult at times, but they always manage to make you smile everyday," says Cunningham.

Junior Claire Hawkes also volunteers with the PEP Program. She decided to TA (teacher assist) with them as part of her requirements for National Honors Society.

Playing with trucks and doing puzzles with the kids was definitely one of the highlights of the trip. I was able to forget about any papers or tests and just enjoy myself. The kids bring out the best in you and just make you laugh or smile. Rarely did a kid ever complain and they all had some of the best manners I've ever seen from a group of three to five year olds.

As we walked the kids out to their parents, every single one of them was happy and looked content with the day they had spent in class. I could tell that the PEP program was doing a great job with creating a fun environment for the students and that they all couldn't wait to come back.

I hadn't laughed or smiled that much in 90 minutes since seeing "Pitch Perfect" (which I'll admit I saw...) but the kids were able to bring out the best in me, which is something I'll never forget. Everybody needs to have those days where they act like a four year old, and I was able to have mine with the PEP program. So go out and play with trucks or blocks. It may seem childish, but you never know, it could be a really fun time.



*The PEP playground.*

It had been a while since I'd seen so many smiling faces looking back at me as I sat down at the tables in a very small uncomfortable seat. I could tell immediately that the kids loved coming to class and that even more importantly, the teachers love being there helping the kids learn. The PEP program is a great place for the kids who are becoming developmentally stronger with their education.



**Aaron Slepian**  
Features Editor

High school is its own little world; the warm cement walls of the building provide a sense of security to its residents. Everything you need for education is located but one town over. After school every day you return to your house and are instantly surrounded by your possessions. It seems almost impossible to live any other way. This is why college barely even seems like a reality to so many students.

Ideally the process of gaining access to a higher education should start during a high schooler's junior year, but I know from experience that as a junior college seems like a completely alien idea and is hardly relatable. For this reason I didn't begin any sort of college efforts at any point during my junior year. Heather Machanoff, head of guidance at Oyster River says, "Don't wait until a month before to start thinking about where to go or what to do; it should start junior year." While there is always the rare kid who knows what they want

to do and where they want to go since diapers, the vast majority of students are really uncertain about mostly every aspect of their post-high-school education. As is suggested, a number of



*The Common Application home page.*

students begin college visits and researching during junior year. Senior Christian Davis has been visiting colleges all over the northeast for almost a year now, and feels as though he's developing a strong grasp on his priorities when choosing schools, "I am really interested in a school with a strong engineering department," Davis states.

Similar to Davis, senior David Chen has been researching numerous colleges for quite some time now. With almost every early action deadline over now Chen has applied to 5 different schools and intends on applying to upwards of 16 total. "The hardest part has been coming up with ideas for the essay," Chen says. Chen has gone above and beyond the call of duty with his applications, only 3 out of the 5 schools that he has applied to are on the Common Application and Chen has opted to write different essays for each application that he fills out.

Devin Thomas graduated last year and now attends University of British Columbia. Thomas applied to 5 different schools, but in retrospect believes that it was not all necessary "In hindsight there was pretty much no reason to apply to UNH and not much reason to apply to SFU" He states. Much like Davis, Thomas knew what he was looking for while applying and this assisted him a lot in choosing "I knew that I wanted a big research university with a top science program in a big city, in Canada, and on top of that I knew what major I wanted to move towards."

## DOES COLLEGE SOUND APPETIZING?



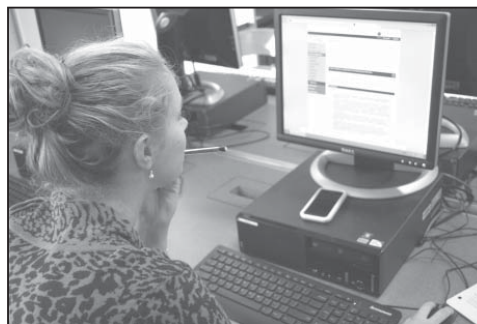
*Guidance Director Heather Machanoff checks in on a student's Naviance.*

Thomas's fellow graduate Paige Moody had a quite different situation on her hands. Moody only applied to one school, Macalester College in Minnesota. Moody feels as though the hardest part and the easiest part were one in the same for her, that issue being whether or not to do early decision. There is often confusion between early action and early decision. Early action is simply sending an application to a desired

*"I don't think [SATs] should have such a significant impact on college admissions..."*

*-David Chen*

school at an early deadline, this sometimes will increase an applicant's chances of acceptance and it also gets the application process out of the way. Early decision is binding; while it includes applying early it also requires that you more or less devote yourself to that school. The benefit of early decision is knowing that you have a spot in that school and you are secure for college. The downside of early decision though is that once you are decided and accepted you must attend that college for at least the first semester.



*Senior Becca Hoff works on filling out her application.*

Moody adores Macalester and is extremely grateful to be going there, but she wouldn't have even known of its existence if she hadn't had assistance. Moody sought the assistance of a college counselor after having the idea suggested to her by her elder sister. "The problem is that [almost] everybody applies to the same schools because we don't know about all the great schools and opportunities out there," Moody says.

Senior Zander Hobbs recently finished submitting numerous college applications for early action, "All of my common app schools, I applied early before the deadline," Hobbs says, leaving only two or three applications unfinished. The only aspect of the application that Hobbs found himself ill prepared for was actually sending his test scores to the colleges.

*(Continued under "COLLEGE APPS" on page 20)*



*"It sounds like there's a muskrat stuck in your saxophone." -Mr. Laforce*



## NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



**Andrew Gass**  
Features Writer

Being a new student can be tough, especially if you're coming in as a sophomore when people have already started to migrate into certain friend groups. However at Oyster River, I like to think that we do a pretty good job making new kids feel welcome and that they are a part of the community we have established.

New sophomore Lizzie Silvio agrees with me, saying "This is not how it was at my old school. People weren't friendly at all... [at ORHS] people are just a lot more understanding and accepting of things." Silvio comes from Boxford, Massachusetts where she attended Masconomet Regional High School. It was also a tri-town school like Oyster River, which is something Silvio really appreciates. "I like this a lot better because it's half the size of my old school, it's much more personal." She also enjoys seeing her friends every day, something that didn't occur at her old school due to how big it was.

Francisca Jeffrey is also a new sophomore; she previously attended CATA (Cocheco Arts and Technology Academy) located in Dover. CATA is a very small school so ORHS is a nice change for Jeffrey. "I went to a charter school last year, so the amount of people in the school has been a huge

*"My favorite part is all the students; I love being back in a public school."*  
-Francisca Jeffery

change coming from a school of 80 [kids] total! Also, how close this community is, even though it is so large is a big change!" Jeffrey really enjoys being back in public school and is looking forward to taking part in the drama club.

Even though we are a relatively small school, we present kids with a lot of options of things to do. The activities we have provide the students with a wide variety of experiences. I think that creates an even balance of students we have here at ORHS, kids who for example aren't into sports, have the chance to join a club.

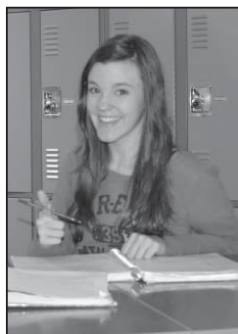
Jacob Moore who comes from Woodstock, CT is also from a large school. The school he previously attended had about 5,000 students and the campus was like a college campus. Moore isn't a huge fan of the fact that we don't have block scheduling stating that "I don't have as much time to do stuff in class." However he enjoys the fact that it's much easier to walk around the school since we only have three floors.

Because our school only consists of three floors, getting lost rarely happens here at Oyster River. I think this provides a nice aspect to the school. Knowing exactly where you need to be helps with the flow of a student's day.

*"Everybody was really nice and welcomed me with a smile."*- Mitchell Testa

"Everybody was really nice and welcomed me with a smile," sophomore Mitchell Testa said. Testa attended Dover High School last year and so far has found ORHS to be pleasant. Like Moore, he enjoys the fact that he only has to venture up and down three flights of stairs to reach his classes. Testa has hopes of being a chef one day and is taking full advantage of the culinary classes we offer.

While being a new student can be tough, I think it can be concluded that here at Oyster River we do a wonderful job making kids feel welcome. Be sure to say hi to these four students and other new students in the halls and to continue making them feel welcome.



Francisca Jeffery



Mitchell Testa



Lizzie Silvio



Jacob Moore

### Five ORHS Students' Xmas Traditions in 20 Words or Less

"I go in for a hard Christmas morning trench." -Bryce Schultz

"I break into people's houses on Christmas Eve and steal their presents from under the tree." -Emma Salvati

"We get to open one present on Christmas Eve." -Shauna Bulger

"I sit alone at home in the corner waiting for Santa Claus to come down the chimney." -Jess Pittroff

"My five-year-old sister writes a letter to Santa and bakes chocolate chip cookies for him." -Adelia Couser



## DEAR MOUTH OF THE RIVER,



**My girlfriend recently broke up with me through a text message, and I am devastated. What should I do? Should I get over her (how?) or beg her to give it another chance?**

**-Crying Alone At Home**

DEAR CRYING ALONE AT HOME,  
Anyone who breaks up with you through a text message isn't worth your time. You should try to get over her and meet new people to get your mind off it. Don't beg her to get back together, because it's her loss!

**I'm literally perfect and I feel like people are jealous of me. How do I get people to realize that they will never be as beautiful and funny as me?**

**-Flawless**

DEAR FLAWLESS,  
First of all, congratulations on your self-confidence! It's a good thing if you can recognize and appreciate your personal qualities. However, you should realize that other people may not be as emotionally secure as you. Try to spread the wealth by complimenting others and pointing out what you like about them! Soon you'll be surrounded by people with the same mindset as you.

**Who is this? What's going on here? I don't like this.**  
**-Lost and Confused**

DEAR LOST AND CONFUSED,  
We are the MOR staff, and through form-spring we have decided to lend our wise advice to help get you through any sticky situations high school may throw at you. Think of us as the friend you don't know personally but are still fully willing to trust.

**I'm Smokey the Bear, and I'm trying to come out as a pyromaniac. It's very distressing, but I was thinking y'all could help me through this?**

DEAR SMOKEY,  
No worries - we've all had secrets that are hard to share. Try sitting down with a close friend or family member and telling them first, and then as you become more comfortable with your identity, branch out and tell more people. Your true friends will accept you for who you are, and anyone who treats you differently for it isn't worth keeping around.

**I am a male OR student, and I have fallen in love with Mr. Kelly. His marital status...it breaks my heart. How can I change it? What can I do to stop this injustice?**

**-Betrayed**

DEAR BETRAYED,  
Don't worry; rumor has it that the first day Mr. Kelly came back as married man, he forgot to wear his ring! But we don't think there is anything you can do to change or stop this, so listen up: Mr. Kelly is officially off the market! But if you're still looking to crush on a teacher, check out Mr. Cutting, the new English teacher here at ORHS.

**I'm having trouble making friends. Any help?**  
**-Shy**

DEAR SHY,  
Try branching out and talking to all different types of people. See where you feel most comfortable and where you feel like you can be yourself. Just don't be afraid of going out on a limb and starting conversation with someone; they could be your new BFF!!!

**Is it weird for me to like a 14-year-old if I'm 16? -Age Difference**

DEAR AGE DIFFERENCE,  
We think as long as you are on the same maturity level there is no harm, but also just make you are both on the same page about what you're looking to get out of the relationship. There are plenty of happy couples out there who are a few years apart in age!



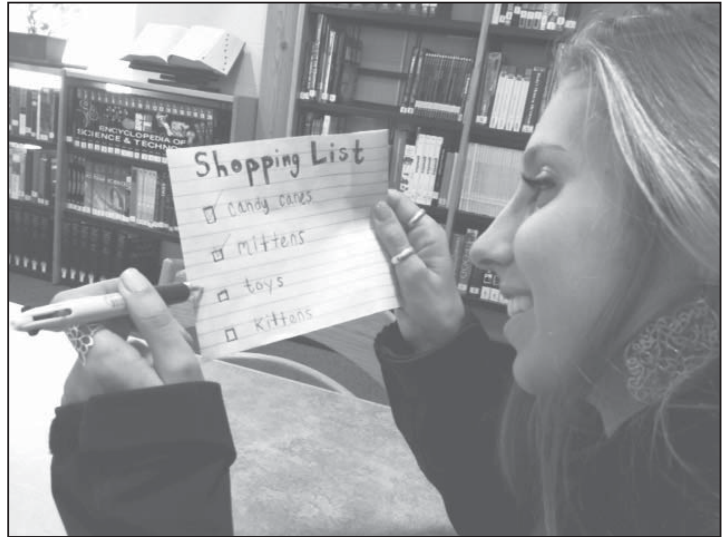
**Corey Scarano**  
News Editor

## HOLIDAY BUCKET LIST

After the final Thanksgiving leftovers have been eaten from the fridge, we all know the holiday season has arrived. Stores start to play those familiar tunes and Durham hangs its beautiful decorated wreaths along the tall street lights. Your mom goes crazy with the decorations, and you most likely hear the Christmas countdown five too many times a day. Every radio station is playing those terrible renditions of the old classics like "Silver Bells" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." It's time to dust off the holiday CDs and break out those delicious recipes. Being a holiday scrooge is just too much effort with all the cheer and joy going on around you, so let go of that bitter attitude, pour yourself a glass of eggnog, and jump into this holiday bucket list.

### 1. Stop by Emery Farm.

Every year, Emery Farm displays their gorgeous Christmas trees all around the farm; and it's almost effortless to get one. Although some people enjoy the whole nine yards of getting their tree by sawing it down and dragging it back, Emery Farm makes the process more realistic for busy families. You still get the satisfaction of picking out your own tree, but once you do, the work is done for you by helpers. And while they're tying the tree to your car you can escape into their gift shop to warm up where there is fifty cent hot apple cider, penny candy, and free homemade ornaments. Stop by Emery Farm, located on Route 4 in Durham.



*Allie Harris is making her list and checking it twice.*

### 2. Full day of holiday shopping.

Shopping is sometimes stressful, but when you are shopping to get gifts for other people it can be a fun, rewarding time. Dedicate a whole day to getting all your holiday shopping done. Go with your friends or family and make a list so you don't get overwhelmed. Also, a tradition my friends and I do is secret santa. This way you don't have to spend money on everyone, and it's always fun trying to guess who got you.

### 3. Movie Day.

Call your friends and tell them to bring their favorite holiday movies over. Try a few classics like Elf, Home Alone, The Polar Express, and my absolute favorite, Love Actually. In between or before the movies make some simple and yummy holiday treats for snacking. Here's one idea from recipes.com:

### Holiday Pretzel Treats

*What you'll need: bite size waffle shaped pretzels, Hershey's kisses or hugs, M&M candy*



*Pretzel Treats I made recently.*

How to make it:

1. Heat the oven to 170F. Set a number of bite-size, waffle-shaped pretzels (one for each treat) in a single layer on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper, then top each pretzel with an unwrapped Hershey's Kiss or Hershey's Hug.

2. Bake for 4 to 6 minutes (the white chocolate will melt more quickly), until the chocolates feel soft when touched with a wooden spoon. Remove the cookie sheet from the oven and quickly press an M&M's candy into the center of each Kiss.

3. Allow the treats to cool for a few minutes, and then place them in the refrigerator to set, about 10 minutes.





*Breaking New Ground's coffee specials.*

## 5. Walk around Portsmouth.

Walking around Portsmouth is fun no matter what time of year you go, but during December all the stores are lit up, the lights are hung, and pure white snow hangs from the trees. Bundle up and go on a Saturday night. Get some dinner or take a stroll through Prescott Park, and then for a warm treat try one of Breaking New Ground's warm holiday specials. Everyone get a different one so you can try them all!

## 6. Play in the Snow.

One of the most fun ways to entertain yourself during the holiday season is to embrace the new cold weather; go outside and enjoy it! After the first snow, don't make any excuses as to why you shouldn't go sledding or ice skating. Bundle up and go to your favorite sledding hill. (Or make a snowman; that is always my favorite activity in the winter.)

## 7. Survive the Apocalypse.

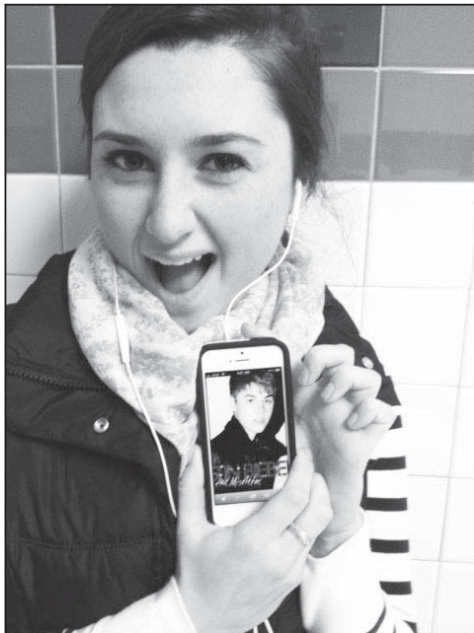
Rumor has it on December 21st, 2012 the world as we know it will end. Check out our article "We're All Going to Die" for some tips on how to survive, and details on what's going to happen.

## 8. Make a Gingerbread House.

You can either go the easy way out and buy a kit that supplies everything you need, or go the traditional way and make the gingerbread and homemade sticky frosting. My family finds the middle ground and uses graham crackers to construct and then home makes the frosting. Make sure you buy a lot of candy so you can make yours original and eat some while decorating.



*A gingerbread house I made a few years ago.*



*Brittany Daly listening to "Under the Mistletoe."*

## 9. Give Back.

The holidays can be a really expensive time, and a lot of us today lose sight of what it is all really about. Many families aren't able to participate in the simple joys like a big feast for dinner or having presents to open on Christmas morning. Try to do something for the less fortunate this season, there are always opportunities to help out. There are charity organizations like "Toys for Tots" and the Salvation Army; to find out what Toys for Tots is in need of just check their website for the area you live in ([toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org)). There are other options too like volunteer gift wrapping at the mall or donating canned goods to food drives. The smallest effort can make a world of a difference to someone else.

## 10. Jam out to some Christmas Tunes.

Just about every radio station is playing holiday tunes, turn them up and sing along. During this season, make sure you give "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" a listen. Also try out one of my favorite christmas albums, guilty as charged, Justin Bieber's "Under the Mistletoe." Here are a few of the longs I love listening to this time of year.

### COREY'S CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

Mistletoe- Justin Bieber

Someday at Christmas- Stevie Wonder

Christmas Love- Justin Bieber

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like X-mas- Bing Crosby

The Christmas Song- Nat King Cole

Christmas Canon- Trans-Siberian Orchestra



*...My acceptance speech will be: "I don't want your handouts! This isn't a charity!" Then I'm going to go live as a hermit." -Cooper Smith*





**Aaron Slepian**  
Features Editor

A car can really define a person, show who they are, maybe their economic standing or how much of a badass they are. Most people only dream of driving a fantastic car. But at the same time a lot of students don't have to wait long at all to grip the steering wheel of that crazy car and maybe drift a few turns or take it for a nice slow ride down the main drag of Durham.

The BMW M5 is widely considered one of the super cars of the every man, which is probably why in spring of 2012 mostly everyone at Oyster River High School was taken aback when CJ Jerry, who at the time was a sophomore, rolled up out front behind the wheel of a 2006 M5. "I appreciate the opportunity to own the car," Jerry says. Although the M5 is an incredible car, it isn't without downsides; Jerry states that it is expensive to fix and it has abysmal fuel economy. The M5's combined MPG is estimated at 13. To put that in perspective the 2012 Dodge Durango, a massive SUV, is rated at a combined 15 MPG ([www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov))

The M5's arrival came with the dethroning of Oyster River's reigning champion of nice cars. A 2006 Audi S4 Special Edition, owned by senior Chad Burns. "We got the car last year from the worst car dealership on the planet," Burns says. Although the S4 (especially a limited edition) is a very nice car, Burns happens to have been sold a lemon. Burns says, "I have had some pretty major oil and engine issues." When asked if his car receives a lot of attention Burns said, "I'd say a lot, due to the fact that smoke is billowing out of it every time I leave school."

Burns still loves his car though, stating that it is priceless to him since it's his first car. The best part of driving the S4 for Burns is, "When the RPMs get

*"Smoke is billowing out of it every time I leave school."*

*-Chad Burns*

up to around 3500 and the torque kicks in and glues you to your seat." Burns is currently in the market for a new car though, partially due to the smoke issue and Burns also doesn't think his car fits him that well "It is more of a classy businessman car, and I am far from that." He says.

"I got it from some guy in Exeter, off of Craigslist, the Craigslist Killer." Zander Hobbs says jokingly in regards to the purchase of his 2004 BMW X3. Hobbs formerly drove a Volkswagen Golf TDI but made the switch to the X3 in May of 2012. Hobbs laments the fact that when he drove the TDI he would receive recognition from other VW drivers and now he often goes unnoticed by others. Certain car owners feel a connection between one another, Hobbs observes that Jeep Wrangler owners feel a kinship to one another and I have personally experienced an unspoken bond with other owners of old Saabs.

Although Jerry's car gets abysmal fuel economy that is not

## BABY YOU CAN DRIVE MY CAR

without reason, the M5 has a V10 engine, an average size sedan will typically have only 4 or 6 cylinders and a lot



*Burns admiring his powerful V8.*

of SUVs only have 8. I guess this is why Jerry chose the single word "fast" to describe his car. Megan Comeau on the other hand uses the word "FIERCE" to describe her 2009 Audi A4. Comeau's love affair with "Sasha" started in 2010 when Comeau's mom bought the car, "I was about to start driving and since Audi has high safety ratings she thought it would be a good fit for me."

Hobbs says that he hasn't had his X3 long enough to really become attached to it, but he says that he was attached

to his two previous vehicles. Jerry says that he feels incredibly grateful having the opportunity to own his car. And Comeau is, "in love" with her car.

Comeau says that she "gets a few waves from other people in Audis." And unsurprisingly in a car like hers she gets a few head turns. "I can't see myself in any other car" Comeau says about the car she nicknamed "Sasha Fierce" after Beyonce. Comeau pin points the turbo, the heated seats and the stereo system as some of her favorite things about "Sasha" but adds that she likes "pretty much everything."



*Hobbs posing next to his whip.*

"It gets plenty of attention. Due to the fact that the license plate reads BCHILLIN, I am often tailed on the highway while the driver behind me tries to snap a picture of my plate" Says senior Brennan Young. Young's 2006 Infiniti G35X is better known by its nickname which happens to be "BCHILLIN". Young's car is of immense personal value to him, "A car is all about freedom and if it's used on a daily basis, it becomes a huge part of your life." Young says.

## MYSTERY MAN

INSIDE THE LIFE OF FRANKIE MULLIN



**Ian Avery-Leaf**  
Media Manager

but maybe not in conventional ways. "I like messing with people, so some of the things I do might leave you wondering what the hell just happened, and I think that's mysterious," he says. A good example of this is a little joke he played when he was in the library in early October: "I played elevator music in the library just loud enough for almost half the library to hear it; people were confused out of their minds and I denied that I was the one playing the music. They were too timid to call me out on it though, so they just had to deal with it," he recalls. While this may seem like a crazy act, that is "no-big-deal" for Mullin.

In the unusual times when Mullin isn't joking, he's on the court pursuing his life's passion: playing basketball.



*Mullin casually people watching outside ORHS.*

"No one quite knows what Frank does after school," says senior Chad Burns. "For all I know he could play with dolls for hours on end."

"I lead a crazy life" says senior Frankie Mullin, one of the most mysterious students in ORHS. With such a lack of information and everyone so curious, MOR decided to take an inside look into the life of Mullin and find out what a typical day in his life consists of.

After assuring us he's not a fan of dolls, Mullin describes himself as a calm person who enjoys getting laughs out of people,



*Mullin taking a jump shot during spirit day.*

ORHS graduate Alex Harling is a huge Frankie fan, and thinks he's "NBA material." Mullin has been playing off-and-on since he was two years old, and now plays for Oyster River's varsity team. "I stopped paying much attention to it [basketball] for about five years, but when I was about 10 it started to take a front seat to other things," he says. The reason he started to enjoy the sport so much is that "It allows for lots of creativity. It's cool how there are so many options at any time."

*"Some of the things I do might leave you wondering what the hell just happened, and I think that's mysterious."  
-Frankie Mullin*

Basketball isn't Mullin's only forte, evidenced by the fact that he used to be an "unreal" child skateboarder, states senior and fellow skateboarder Jack Lombard. "I got pretty good for my age at skateboarding," says the humble Mullin of his skateboarding days in early elementary school, "At one point when I was about six or seven I actually was convinced that I was the third best skateboarder of my age in the world. No joke." To Mullin's credit, not a lot of kids can consistently land kickflips in the first grade, and he could. But unfortunately his dream was quickly grounded in reality when he learned how his talents compared to others: "I realized a little later on that there were a lot of kids out there who were better than me."

While Mullin can't be quite sure what the future holds for him, he lives his life down to earth and in the moment, with a basketball in his hand. Out of everything that makes Mullin who he is, there is a title that he insists upon holding: "Self-proclaimed best journalist not on *Mouth of the River*."



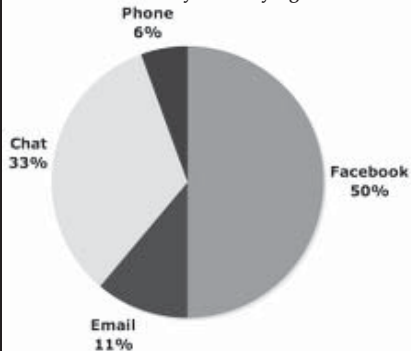
**"BULLY" (continued from page 11)**

Through all the negative connotations, Svanholm manages to see a silver lining. "People have become more open-minded to things like gay people, such that making fun of gay people has become the minority. Which is hella awesome."

Svanholm is no stranger to bullying. He experienced it first-hand during his freshman year. "I would get called faggot when walking through the [senior] core," he explains. "I avoided the core for a long time after that because it was such a heart-wrenching name to be called. I really hate that word still to this day."

Svanholm would also be harassed through the website 'Formspring,' a site where a specific user gets asked anonymous questions from real people. "The thing with bullies is

Where Does Cyber Bullying Occur?



that even though it really sucks being called these names, I know I didn't do anything to them; I didn't do anything to deserve it," he says. After all the name calling, he showed his courage through his confidence. "I am far too fabulous to let that

affect me in even the slightest. If I cared about what people thought I probably wouldn't wear pink jeans or have my ear pierced, now would I?"

While physical bullying can be called 'rare' at Oyster River, the bullying that takes place can still be as harmful. Rumors, gossip, and cyberbullying can hurt more than what is commonly thought. Sometimes it is hard to stand up to a bully, especially if that person is a close friend, but standing up for what is right can make a huge difference to just one person. "Do your thing and don't change anything about it because some people want to bring you down," sums up Svanholm. "You are a beautiful, unique, and one of a kind person that is perfectly imperfect, don't ever feel like less than a human for even a second. You are worth it."

Join the movement at <http://action.thebullyproject.com/>  
If you or someone you know is being bullied, go to <http://www.121help.me/> or call 1-855-201-2121

**"COLLEGE APPS" (continued from page 13)**

"Test scores take a few days to actually send, I tried sending [test scores] pretty much the day it was due and turns out it doesn't send to like a week later," Hobbs states. Thankfully for Hobbs and other students applying early action, many school's deadlines were pushed back a few weeks for students in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy.

A lot of components are weighed when applying to college, including SAT scores, GPA and work load in general. GPA and work load are things that students work toward throughout all of high school. At times it can be difficult to see the benefits of getting good grades, especially as a freshman or sophomore. Junior year is not only when college prep should begin but it is also when it begins to seem like more of a reality, like many other juniors Matt Segil has begun to look more seriously at his performance, stating, "I think that with our school not having weighted grades it makes it difficult for students taking a more difficult course load to succeed. With this strongly affecting our GPA it hurts our chances with colleges and organizations like NHS"

Unlike GPA, SAT scores don't even exist until (for most kids) junior year. The SATs (Scholastic Assessment Test) are exactly what they say; a test used in order to gauge ones aptitude in a learning environment. As time progresses colleges and universities weigh peoples SAT scores less and less, but that doesn't seem to change people's opinions about the SATs. After each SAT day there comes a slew of complaints and score claims. Two weeks later when the scores are published, there is no more mystery to one's performance and one of the final pieces of the high school puzzle is set into place. But people's opinions continue to reign, "SATs have too much of an effect on whether or not you get into college" Senior Zach Scholz says, senior Anna Genes agrees stating, "They don't accurately represent a student's capability".

"I think that SATs in general is currently the only way of comparing students from school to school [which is] what it's used for, but it is a poor tool. Numerous studies have shown that SATs don't show what it was intended to which is aptitude" Says Chen, "I don't think it should have such a significant impact on college admissions because it is nearly on par with 4 years worth of work for most schools."

Applying to college is brings a lot of pressure and forces most students to look back upon their previous performance and give it a second thought, determining whether or not they did everything that they could. It also gives these students a reason to look forward to their higher education and even what might come beyond that.

## 5 Qs With Mrs. Ricker on Mrs. Machanoff Being Pregnant!

1.) What is it like with Mrs. Machanoff being pregnant?

Horrible. She is cranky and whiny.

2.) How does it affect work?

It is so hard to be around pregnant woman, it's the fourth consecutive year with someone being pregnant in

Guidance. I feel like I've been pregnant for four years.

3.) Favorite month of pregnancy?

When she is done being pregnant.

4.) Baby name ideas?

Emily for a girl. Ricker for a boy... or Rick, or Erick maybe.

5.) Biggest pet peeve with pregnant women?

They talk about it non stop, and then everyone else comes in and talks about it non stop.

Final Comments?

Don't expect me to be excited when you bring your baby in for me to look at. I don't care.



"Hitler was a fully grown male who couldn't access his frontal cortex because he was whacked out on Scooby Snacks." -Mr. Hawley





**Cam Messer**  
**Op-Ed Writer**

## COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN

ARE THE CLASS OFFICERS & THE STUDENT BODY ON THE SAME PAGE?

Come June seventh, the sun will be shining and everyone will be in blue and white gowns under a big white tent. This is the ideal graduation. Obviously we cannot control the weather, or make everyone graduate, but we have the ability to raise thousands of dollars to have a shiny white tent. Or can we?

The goal is \$3,000 by the end of this year. The number itself seems fairly

daunting and understandably so. Ideally, the class would fundraise around \$1,000 each year. But in reality the fundraising pressure sets in at the beginning of senior year. Prior to students' last year in high school, the budget that the class has to work with is pretty balanced. "Typically the senior class spends the whole year raising money for the tent," comments senior class advisor Heather Healy. Even then it is close. This year the senior class started the school year with \$1423.40. The actual cost of the tent is \$6,500. However, this issue has the attention of the administration, "I am not happy that the senior class has to raise so much. I question the concept of kids raising \$6,500" comments Principal Todd Allen.

However, contrary to popular belief, the administration has reduced the cost of the tent, requiring the senior class to raise \$3,000 instead of the full \$6,500. Just as he followed up on his beliefs of student responsibility by implementing open campus, Allen has once again followed through.

Graduation is the culminating event of our education; everything that we have worked for leads to that day in June. Deviating from the more common gymnasium setting, Oyster River takes advantage of the marvelous climate. Up until 2009, the payment for the tent had its place in the district budget. The money that was raised through the years of fundraising then could be used towards things for the senior class. "We could pay for a senior banquet with the leftover cash; everyone got a beach towel and water bottle" Healy recalls. Post-2009 looks a lot different now; seniors suddenly find themselves in a mad dash to raise money during their last year of high school.

Over the years, various fundraisers have been established by faculty and students, which make a huge impact on the revenue to the classes. For example, Mr. Bobcat is a talent, beauty and comedy act all mashed together that the senior class puts on every year. Mr. Bobcat was able to raise close to \$900.00 this year, more than any other year. School sponsored dances have been the main source of class revenue in years past. "The Sadie Hawkins dance held every February, could bring in over \$1,200 and the Follies skits could bring in over \$1,600" according to Healy. But with the recent controversy surrounding follies and dances, the revenue associated with the events have been dramatically decreased. With potential income projections looking bleak, the three big fundraising events of the year could be in danger. For the senior class of 2013, this should be worrisome. Even with the support from the school budget, these obstacles still jeopardize the class from having a big class trip or class banquet.

Senior class president Brennan Young feels as though the fundraising is going pretty well. Even with the subsidized cost of \$3,000, Young recognizes that

there is much more than the tent that must fit in the class budget. A class gift must be paid for as well as a class trip for the graduating class. "Everything costs something [so] we need to keep going and not get behind", adds Young.

The looming budget with all of its difficulty has also had an effect on student morale. Senior Olivia Moore comments: "I am curious as to what or if our class officers are planning." Tension can be picked up in the voices of the students. Moore adds: "I am a little skeptical to be honest; we have to get going if we want to make that much money."

*"I am not happy that the senior class has to raise so much. I question the concept of kids raising \$6,500." - Mr. Allen*

*"I would feel more reassured if I knew what was going on." - Peter Dube*

Moore is not alone with her skepticism, Senior Peter Dube admits, "I don't really know much about the budget to be honest. I would feel more reassured if I knew what was going on." Rumors spread, numbers get thrown

around, students start pitching ideas on what should be done, and people take the situation personally. We feed on drama like hungry wolves on a midnight hunt.

Human behavior seems to be at work. There is this need for drama or to feel victimized and to put the blame and responsibility on others. Seeing the startling difference in perspective between the class officers and the student body, it is very clear that the issue at hand is the underlying breakdown in communication between the two. It can be assumed that the class officers just choose not to share the gritty number grinding that goes on behind the curtain, but having the student population being educated and up to date in the twenty-first century does not seem out of reach. We as students though must question what is going on around us. We can share some of the responsibility of not being fully educated. It seems to me that both parties could put in a bit more effort. Students should and cannot be led blindly through the year without knowing what is going on, but we need to open our eyes and actually take a look around.

If one were to feel gratitude towards the administration, it would definitely not be wrong. Although in the past the tent has been paid for in full, the administrations' gesture is a commendable one. However there is room for improvement between class and class officers though. Besides improving human nature, communication is a must for the future.



**Chase Klewicki**  
Op-Ed Editor

## WORKING HARD OR HARDLY WORKING?

Amongst the constant complaining and steady stream of criticism coming from the Oyster River High School student body, a reoccurring issue has come up surrounding

the Guidance department. Senior Seamus Clancy, shares his perception of the student opinion on the subject: "Guidance has a poor reputation because they don't try

very hard."

The Guidance department gets a lot of flak from students due to a lack of communication, relationships, and proactive actions between the two groups. An overarching reality in society is that you will get out what you put in, and this seems to sum up the relationship that students have with the Guidance department.

Sam Warach a, senior at ORHS, admits that "Guidance has a reputation from students of being unhelpful and unapproachable." However, Warach also says, "I have had good experiences with Guidance. If you advocate for yourself and work well with them, they will work well with you."

The Guidance department as a whole has an enormous responsibility. Guidance Counselor Heather Machanoff, goes over some of their primary duties: "We are responsible for student academics, scheduling, course selection, parent-teacher meetings, post-high school plans, and social and emotional support. Basically anything in school not specifically content related."

Students at Oyster River seem to take a lot of what the Guidance department does for granted, with tasks like organizing career day, writing the newsletter, and scheduling PSAT, NECAPS, and AP tests not even being associated with the department.

The generalization of the school's Guidance department not trying is unfair and, frankly, flat-out wrong. Like any department in the school, Guidance will have its strengths and weaknesses. However, students appear to find the Guidance department an easy target for their teenage frustrations. In order to overcome these frustrations the students and guidance department as a whole both need to take a proactive approach to meeting and getting to know each other, and also develop an effective way for students to give feedback to the department.

Students often find it easy to criticize things that they are unfamiliar with, and as of now most students are still unfamiliar with their Guidance counselors and Guidance as a whole. In essence the Guidance department is a place where students can go to get social and emotional counseling, either for high school or for the years after high school. This means that it is imperative that Guidance develops healthy relationships with each student. As of right now not all of the students are developing that relationship.

"Personally I just don't really feel like Guidance counselors get the opportunity to really get to know all the students they need to manage. I realize they have a lot to man-

age, and a lot of students to try and look after, but at the same time I don't think they really care to truly get to know every student on a personal level," admits Shauna Bulger, a senior at ORHS.

*"I just don't really feel like Guidance counselors get the opportunity to really get to know all the students they need to manage. I realize they have a lot to manage and a lot of students to try and look after, but at the same time I don't think they really care to truly get to know every student on a personal level."*

-Shauna Bulger

In order for Guidance to improve their relationship with students on a personal level, they need be in the classroom with students, interacting every day, and understanding their daily lives. In defense of the Guidance department,

this has been getting better over the years. Guidance has developed new initiatives in order to start working with students more in the classroom. For example, guidance counselors have started to meet with students during their junior year in U.S. history classrooms to sign them up for Naviance; a site used to explore and apply to colleges. Additionally they have now begun teaching classes to help students explore different careers and try to find what is right for them. This is a good start but in the future students need to interact with their counselors more frequently and outside of the guidance office.

The second major issue that Guidance faces is trouble getting constructive feedback from students. "We have done surveys in the past, but they were not as productive as we hoped and some of the comments were not helpful, but just plain mean," explains Machanoff.

Students generally find it awkward to criticize people and adults especially to their faces, but when given the chance to help and positively criticize anonymously, they abuse that privilege and take the opportunity to be mean and spiteful. To resolve this issue we need to come up with a mechanism where students are given the opportunity to try and improve the department.

However this mechanism needs to be more personal as well, in order to discourage abusing the system the way they abused the surveys.

One way this could be accomplished is to have students fill out a survey of their experience immediately after every meeting with their guidance counselor and then instead of giving it to guidance give it to the principal. This way we know the survey is going to be appropriate, but it also makes the student feel more comfortable knowing they will not be creating any hostility with their counselor through the survey.

For the most part, the current reputation that the Guidance department has with the student body isn't very flattering, but the situation can be fixed through some simple tasks of more interaction between students and counselors and a better feedback system. The Guidance department is pretty harshly criticized-

in some cases unjustly so-but if both the students and the Guidance department want to improve their relationship, then through better collaboration we can create a better support system for students.



Mrs. Ricker and Mrs. Machanoff working hard.

C126

GUIDANCE  
OFFICE

## WINTERFEST NO MORE?



**Cam Messer**  
Op-Ed Writer

Between midterms, college applications, and holiday stress, winterfest comes as a much needed break. A day of festivities, winterfest is often seen as a reason to leave the school in search of something better to do, but to those who stay, a coffee house, open gym and other reindeer games are offered. At least this is what most students remember.

Last year students were fed the idea that a festival would take place "sometime" during the winter season. Organized and run by the senate, senate officials kept pushing tentative dates back. It did not take long for the student

body to abandon the idea of a festival happening. It seemed as though the senate began to think this way as well, dismissing the idea that they could pull off the event. Senate member Sam Lewis comments: "There appeared to be no interest," and remembers back to that time of year as a busy time: "The senate was busy preparing for the presentation for the school board about class rank."

My feeling is that students were just not pitched a reasonable enough idea and were going on the assumption that a winterfest would take place. If a car dealer was offering a buy one get one free deal on all of their cars but did not advertise it, the turn out of sales would not deviate from a normal given day.. Granted the gravity of the two situations greatly differs, the concept remains the same. But the past is the past and we should focus our energy on changing that this year. The last winterfest took place in 2010, almost three years ago. Is it a thing of the past?

*"There appeared  
to be no interest."  
-Sam Lewis*

Winterfest, a commonality among high school culture. Like the Sadie Hawkins Dance, winterfest is a time to take in the spirit of the season. Forgotten by most, Oyster River used to host an elaborate winterfest.

Smiling as she remembered the days, Mrs. Wotton comments: "We had wacky competitions all week." Much like the homecoming spirit week, where students could earn points for their spirit as a class. Winterfest spirit week was more of an individualized competition.

Individuals could compete alone or teams could be made up of students from any grade. Preliminary rounds would take place during the week so that on the Friday, during a pep-rally, the finalist could compete in front of the whole school for the title of the event. After a full week of spirit activities, that Friday, students who were interested, to took a bus up to Gunstock Ski Resort. The next morning, the high school faculty sponsored a pancake breakfast at the high school. Following the food, snow sculpting contest, a flatlanders winter pentathlon; bobsled races, snowball fights and skiraces, were among the festivities. Hot chocolate and cookies were served at the concession stand during the activities. That night, students made their way to the Memorial Union Building at UNH for the annual Sadie Hawkins dance.

"No one is really left who remembers the event" Wotton recalls. The diffusion of responsibility became so little that those who were left with the load of planning finally stopped. If we as a school demonstrate a collective interest and put forth the effort to make an event like this happen, I feel as though that the end product will be much worth the time and effort. "We as a school music call upon our elected officials and revive this event."

## SCHOOL PUNISHMENT



**Adrian Schidlovsky**  
Op-Ed Writer

The Mission Statement for Oyster River High School is as follows; "Oyster River High School promotes a safe and nurturing community where the uniqueness of each member is valued. In this spirit, we are committed to becoming educated, ethical, responsible citizens who strive to contribute positively toward the betterment of ourselves, our school, our society and our world."

According to the ORHS student handbook distributed to every student, there are very clear punishments for certain actions. These punishments have been examined by the school board and faculty, and some are even required by the state board of education. Students are expected to follow these rules or the appropriate actions will take place. At ORHS there is a trend of students that claim that the punishments do not fit the crime.

"When you punch someone, you get a five day suspension," says senior Peter Dube. While some people view it as a vacation, others view it as a time to think about what they did wrong, and how they could change it. Last year, a group of students got in trouble on a bus, and were punished by having to clean up the school. Community service is a great way to punish kids and teach them that if you do something wrong, a vacation isn't earned, but a job to teach the perpetrator why a student should cease from wrong doing.

*"You know that if  
you skip a class you  
take the risk of getting  
a detention, it  
is your own fault."  
- Hannah Grant*

"If you skip the last twenty minutes of a class you get an hour and a half after school detention." Peter Dube exclaimed. This seems like an unjust punishment to Peter Dube, but if students were not punished, students would leave for the last twenty minutes of class everyday.

"You know that if you skip a class you take the risk of getting a detention, it is your own fault." Says senior Hannah Grant

"I have left school grounds while I was supposed to be in a class, I was punished with a lunch detention." says Senior Cassidy Carmichael.

"When a student is forced to sit in detention, and after being there for a while they start to believe they are bad kids, it is a basic self fulfilling prophecy" says Kai Schidlovsky, an education major.

"Once you learn the basics of the rules, its really easy not to get in trouble" Says Grant. "In highschool you are at the maturity level that you know what you can do right and you know what you can do wrong, and if you do something wrong then you know it is your responsibility to take the punishment". In high school, students ages range from 14 to 18 years of age, at 17 and 18 they legally can be charged as an adult in New Hampshire. If students are used to being bad, and not being punished, they will not be ready for the real world consequences.

Assistant Principal Wotton explains "There needs to be consequences for actions, or the school would be a mess, Parents trust us all day long to keep their kids safe, and we can't do that with out enforcing rules put in place."

When doing something that you can get in trouble for, just stop and think to see if the consequence is worth the five minute thrill of breaking the rules.



**Senior Cassidy Carmichael**  
in detention.







**Chase Klewicki**  
**Op-Ed Editor**

With another presidential election come and gone eligible seniors at Oyster River High School registered and voted. Unfortunately, a disturbing number of the voting students took this first opportunity to display their ignorance of the relevant issues, rather than to engage in an informed participation of the democratic process.

Two factors seemed to be at play. One pertained to a general lack of understanding of the candidates and their positions on the issues, while the other was the overwhelming pressure applied by the voter's peer community to support a particular candidate.

The comment of Pranav Nanda, a senior at ORHS exemplifies the second point. Nanda said: "It is the popular thing to like Obama at Oyster River." This popularity of one candidate or another at schools can be detrimental and may be one of the major reasons that students chose to be in the dark with regard to the election. Many students did not bother to inform themselves on the issues, because they found the approval of their peers more important than voting responsibly and therefore picked the popular candidate rather than the candidate who faithfully conformed to their views.

Students seemed to be uninformed of the relevant political issues and appeared to make their choice of presidential candidate with no real factual backing. Before the election John Parsons, senior at Oyster River High School made the statement: "Some Oyster River students are not well informed. They don't take the time to factor in what people stand for. They buy into negativity, find one flaw and stick to it." Although John acknowledges that there are students who are well-informed and have created educated opinions, our democracy can ill afford students or voters in general,

## IS IGNORANCE BLISS?

basing their votes on such trivial factors. Students need to take it upon themselves to understand candidates and their positions. Part of good citizenship is being a well-informed voter.

So what is it to be a well-informed voter? To start, one needs to

*"Some Oyster River students are not well informed. They don't take the time to factor in what people stand for. They buy into negativity, find one flaw and stick to it."*

*-John Parsons*

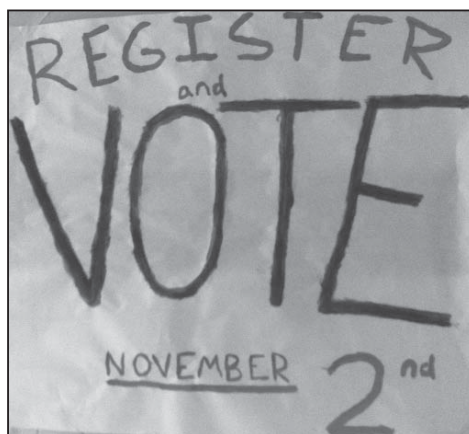
find out what is important to them. One needs to understand their beliefs and what they find significant. Upon coming to a reasonable understanding of oneself, one needs to find out the stances that the candidates take and which ones they agree with

and which ones they don't. For sources on the candidates and the presidential election, Brian Zotolli, teacher at Oyster River, says, "I read, I watch TV, I watch the debates, I listen to NPR, Newsweek, Time, Wall Street Journal, New York Time, I try to absorb as much information as I can from a variety of different sources." Finally, one needs to come to an objective assessment based on what they have heard, watched, and learned from the candidates, and choose the candidate that would best represent them.

It is unacceptable for students to exercise this privilege of voting without first informing themselves about the consequences that could come from their vote. Students at Oyster River could have easily educated themselves on the issues. The social studies department held a mock election including a mock debate at the high school to try and raise student awareness before the election. Zotolli commented prior to the election, "The students have the ability to be informed; they have the tools to find out where good information is, and I hoped they are informed."

Teachers in the social studies department went to great lengths to try and update students on the election, making it inexcusable for Oyster River students to have apathy with regard to having educated themselves about the election. Voters needed to be informed and vote responsibly.

Their voice could have had a major impact on the election, especially in a state like New Hampshire where neither candidate had overwhelming support.



ORHS poster encouraging eligible voters to register



Open Monday through Saturday 10:30am-9:00pm

Open Sunday 10:30am-8:00pm



**Chase Klewicki**  
Op-Ed Editor

## FREE SAFETY OR SAFETY FREE?

SPORTS AND THEIR ROLE IN HIGH SCHOOL

A recent proposal by Dover school board member Dr. Paul Butler has caused uproar in the seacoast region. "I am suggesting that we try to stop the game of football in Dover," Butler was quoted saying by CBS News. "The literature on head injuries in football is getting increasingly clear; the game is dangerous for our brains."

This bold stance on the Dover football program has sparked an intense debate over whether or not school sports are too dangerous. Dr. Butler's two main concerns are the higher risk of concussion in such a violent sport, and the long term brain damage that these concussions can have on young student athletes.

The proposal of canceling a major sports program has raised the overarching question of whether school sports have such a high a risk of serious injury that the negatives outweigh the positives. The suggestion of cancelation makes one wonder whether sports should maintain their prominent position within high school. The proposal seems however, to be more a symptom of an overly protective society rather than serving to make student athletes any safer.

"I can't see a reason ever, really, for canceling a sports program. As long as there is proper coaching, and proper teaching of techniques, there is no reason a sport should become that dangerous," commented Mike Feld, trainer at Oyster River High School.

The hype from this recent proposal at Dover High School has seemed to blow the issue out of proportion. This is not to say that injuries such as concussions are not serious, but that this radical measure suggested is not justified by the data at hand. Specifically at Oyster River the amount of injuries per season has stayed relatively the same from year to year according to Feld. Even in Dover where the suggestion was made to cut football because of its likelihood for head to head contact, soccer, a program which has a reputation for being relatively safe, according to *The Union Leader* actually deals with more concussions than the football team does.

If we are truly trying to create a safer atmosphere for high school students then we must face the fact that cutting sports programs will not solve the issue. "I would play sports even if they were not offered at the high school, because I like sports.

They are a good use of my focus and time and I enjoy their intensity, especially club sports," comments senior Kayli Igooe.

*"I can't see a reason, ever, really, for canceling a sports program. As long as there is proper coaching, and proper teaching of techniques, there is no reason a sport should become that dangerous."*

-Mike Feld

Students who want to play sports will play sports regardless of whether it is their school team or a separate entity, as is shown by the large number of Oyster River

students who play with Seacoast United and AAU basketball. These non-school-affiliated sports programs may also not have the same supervision or resources a school would to keep athletes safe and educate them, making these sports more dangerous.



Trainer Mike Feld wrapping OR student's ankle.

When looking to keep student athletes safe rather than just looking out for the liability of schools, the best thing a high school can do is educate student athletes about the risks that come with participating in sports and how to minimize these risks from occurring. "I wouldn't want to send a non-football coach out to coach the proper technique of tackling; however, educating parents and players on the risks of the sport and potential of injury is important," states athletic director Corey Parker. Schools also need to take the responsibilities on themselves to make sure they pay appropriate attention to safety protocols such as cancel-

ing a game when the conditions become dangerous, or making sure there is enough padding on the walls of the gym.

Sports also present a great environment for experiential learning. "Running sports through the high school is an extension of the school day and teaches valuable learning lessons," says Parker. Sports teach students lessons that cannot be taught in the classroom. They show students how to use teamwork and create relationships with coaches and teammates that last a life time.

Senior Connor Grove explains why he continues to play soccer even after sustaining serious concussions while playing: "I still play because I love soccer, I love my team, and I love the number 13." Sports also provide incentives for some less moti-

vated students to do well in school and stay out of trouble.

Individuals should be making the choice whether or not a sport is too dangerous for them to participate in rather than the school. Cutting sports from high schools would not make young athletes any safer and would remove programs that provide countless positives expanding ones social group and teaching them lessons they would not otherwise learn. If the ultimate goal is to provide a safe environment for student athletes then removing sports program from high schools is not the correct solution.

*"I wouldn't want to send a non-football coach out to coach the proper technique of tackling, however, educating parents and players on the risks of the sport and potential of injury is important."*

- Corey Parker

# PRE-GAME RITUALS



**Eliza Brown**  
Sports Writer

Wearing a special armband, never washing your cleats during the season, or doing the same pregame preparation before each game; these are all examples of simple things some players feel necessary to do in order to play their best in a game. Pregame rituals are different for every athlete, but most athletes have them. Whether it's changing it up every time or

always doing the same thing before a game, rituals mean something to the player.

Athletes often have a pregame ritual that can focus or calm them before a game. Coaches often encourage players to have some sort of routine because they are thought to help before a big game. Varsity volleyball player Selia Libby says that the team has a few traditions they do before games, including a song the team sings before playing. When asked why they do them she simply explains, "Everyone has always done them."

Every player has a different reason for their own ritual or tradition, and Oyster River athletes are no different. Some are more common, such as listening to a certain song to pump up or to get them focused before a game. Rye Morrill always listens to *Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes* by Paul Simon on the car ride to the hockey rink because whenever he doesn't he says, "something bad happens." Anthony Shea listens to the same song before every game to get him ready but refuses to disclose the name of the song. When asked what their ritual was, most

*"I'll be thinking about it all game if I don't do it."*

*-Brennan Young*

athletes' first response was that they listen to a specific playlist or song. Music is often used in pregame routines and it seems to be

simply because it gets players in the "zone" and ready to play.

Other athletes do some sort of a tradition because they did it one time and feel the need to uphold it every other game as well. Along with listening to pump up music right before the game Allie Harris always scrubs her white cleats the night before a home game and laces them up when she gets to the field. Harris doesn't exactly know why she feels the need to do it but explains, "I've always done it, and I just like the feeling." The first time Brennan Young and Rye Morrill started in a game together they 'chest bumped' after the National Anthem; since then they continue to carry on the tradition.

Most of these rituals are still pretty common and make sense to others. However, Brennan Young has one very specific ritual he must carry out before every game. Kicking off before the game, Young does what most others do and has to listen to music, specifically four songs. The first song is Katy Perry's *Wide Awake* because he says, "I need to be wide awake for the game," and then Taylor Swift's *Teardrops on My Guitar* because he explains, "she's my girl." The last two songs are *Danza Kuduro* by Don Omar and *99 Red Balloons* by Goldfinger. Next Young does something others may not expect.

He goes to a special bathroom in the Whittemore Center a lot of people don't go to, and turns the lights off. Young sits on the throne and puts his hands in the air letting nature take its course. Young says, "I'll be thinking about it all game if I don't do it." Then when he is on ice he will do something much more common for goalies: he will tap the posts four times in order to feel more centered. Only after all these things are done does Young feel absolutely ready to play.

Not everyone has a ritual as specific as Young's but most still must do something in preparation for a game. Some of the simpler routines may be sitting out on the bench before the game and thinking about what one needs to do that game, like John-Mac Mrozca. Becca Hoff turns her racket around eight times before a serve because otherwise, "It just doesn't feel right."

Whether it's listening to a song, cleaning their shoes the night before, or going to a special bathroom these traditions help the players play their best.

## Try to Guess Who Does What Before a Game!

1) Chris Gallant

2) Becca Hoff

3) Rye Morrill

4) Griffin Sperry

5) Katie Levine

6) Dominique Twombly

7) Becca Hoff

8) Shauna Bulger

9) Megan Comeau

10) Anthony Shea

A) "If I play bad in the first half then I change my hairstyle."

B) "I sing along with the national anthem."

C) "I do my own warmup before I do the group one."

D) "I always show up."

E) "I lick the entire top of the net before a match."

F) "I get dressed starting on the right side because I heard Wayne Gretzky did that."

G) "I eat candy."

H) "I eat two clementines before the game."

I) "We do a 'shark orgy' cheer."

J) "When I played soccer I would wait 80 minutes before leaving the bench."

Answers: 1-D, 2-J, 3-F, 4-H, 5-I, 6-G, 9-A, 8-C, 7-E, 10-B



## COLLEGE BOUND



**Zach Park**  
Sports Editor

College is such a vital part of a teenager's life. We are all told that it's the best four years of our lives. People do whatever they can to make it enjoyable whether it's by studying, partying or joining clubs. There are the talented few that are fortunate enough to competitively play sports at the collegiate level. This starts with hard work throughout one's life and a given ability. The Oyster River Girls Varsity Soccer team plans to send both Megan Comeau and Kayli Igoe to play at the next level.

**KAYLI IGOE/DIVISION I/UNH MEGAN COMEAU/DIVISION II/UT, FLORIDA**

Senior Kayli Igoe didn't think Division I soccer was realistic when she didn't play Seacoast United as a sophomore which is usually the year when recruiters are most involved. As a junior, she decided to go back to Seacoast and UNH contacted her. It became evident that she actually could play D-I.

Igoe has gone through a lot of adversity while playing soccer. She plans to make another switch on the field. Igoe played forward her first three years at Oyster River and all of Seacoast but made a sacrifice by switching to outside back in order to bolster the defense. She gave up the individual benefits of being the top scorer for the better of the team. Igoe played a big part of Oyster River's league best defense allowing only seven goals all season.

Her teammate Claire Salmon says, "Kayli made a huge adjustment at the beginning of the year changing to defense. You could tell how hard she worked to make that change."

Despite Igoe's new found defensive talent, she plans to transition back to forward and outside wing, which are the positions she hopes to play in college.

Igoe has made huge strides throughout high school stating, "I like to hold high expectations for myself, which helps me improve more and more."

Igoe believes that she has the necessary preparation for the challenge of college soccer. She has been a part of one of the most supportive and closely knit teams at Oyster River. UNH could be a bit of a change from that. "I think there will be less team support if you mess up, but Seacoast is much like that, especially toward the later years. That competitive atmosphere will definitely help me."

Igoe sees the level of competition to be taken to a brand new level. "In high school, soccer is not everyone's main concern or desire. My expectation for college is that every person's main passion is soccer." She says that she has always taken soccer very seriously and is a huge part of her life so this adjustment shouldn't be too difficult.

*"In high school, soccer is not everyone's main concern or desire. My expectation for college is that every person's main passion is soccer." -Kayli Igoe*

Despite all of her success, everything isn't smooth sailing for Igoe quite yet. She still believes she has improvements to make. Igoe sees her decision making as something that needs to be worked on and adjusted. She's a very capable player but needs to know exactly when to make a run and when not to and when to play safely and when to go for it. If she can make the necessary changes, along with her impressive work rate and finishing ability, she should be able to have an impact for the Wildcats immediately.

"What drives me to continue is the game in itself and my love for it," states Igoe. This was a big reason for her to continue playing soccer. She wasn't content with simply stopping after high school. Igoe also loves to keep busy and with all the free time in college, soccer was the perfect fill in. Igoe is playing in New Hampshire where she has lived her whole life. She will play a big part for the Wildcats for the next four years and plans to share this journey with family and friends as she stays local.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play college soccer," said senior Megan Comeau. She added that it became a realistic realization during her sophomore year when she began to receive emails from numerous colleges.

Comeau says one of the main reasons she picked Tampa was their great soccer program and academics. "I was looking for a good balance in soccer and academics, and Tampa is exceptional for both," stated Comeau. Getting out of New England and into the warmth was another benefit.

Comeau was also looked at by University of San Diego, perennial power Penn State, University of New

Hampshire, University of Maine and Loyola Marymount.

She could have played at the Division I level but decided against it. Comeau still believes that the Division II level will be a huge change from high school and Seacoast United and a big opportunity for improvement.

"The college game will be played at a faster pace and overall it is going to be more demanding in practices and games," says Comeau. She has prepared herself well by playing varsity soccer for all four years of high school and playing for Seacoast United for over six years.

Four-year senior teammate Molly McQuade definitely believes Comeau is ready for her next step. "She's really calm with the ball and always seems to be in control. I don't see the step up to college being too difficult for her."

Despite the great perks of high school soccer, Comeau says her best soccer highlight was winning two Super Y National Championships with Seacoast.

Comeau has had many athletic accomplishments in the past, and now looks to add to her résumé by making a lasting impact at the University of Tampa. Her ability to cross and play balls with her left foot is what separates her from most. Comeau also has a gifted shot from distance, which is key to her ability to score.

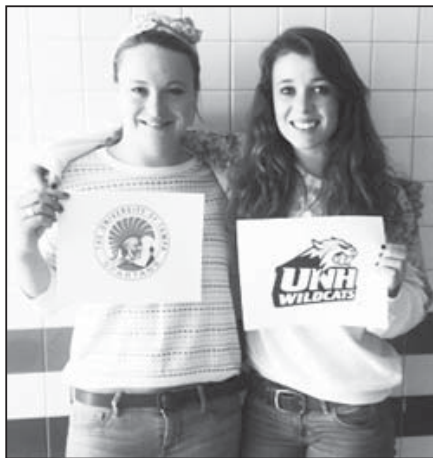
"She has an unbelievable left foot. Any time she has a shot on target, there's a good chance that it's going in," states Salmon. Comeau's ability to put the ball on target with pace was a huge reason that she was the leading scorer for the Bobcats this past season.

Comeau plans to play soccer as long as possible but realizes that she can't play professionally. She has been able to find inspiration through other things despite this fact.

"I love the game and the game itself inspires me. The people you meet along the way are awesome and you can learn a lot from playing on a team. It can help with both the social and skill side of the game," says Comeau. She has been able to make soccer her passion and more than just a game.

Comeau will step right into a starting role, so look for Comeau to make an immediate and lasting impact at UT as long as she is there.

*"The college game will be played at a faster pace and overall it is going to be more demanding in practices and games."*  
-Megan Comeau



*Comeau and Igoe posing with their college choices.*



**Nick Lazar**  
Sports Writer

Oyster River athletics have always been a successful and well represented aspect in the community throughout the years. Over these years as well it has been the support of these athletic teams by the student body showing up to their games. Whether it is a soccer game in the fall or lacrosse game in the spring, there always seems to be students body fans showing up to support their fellow classmates. "I think we have a very well-rounded fan base. There are always fans at home games and I think were one of the best fan bases in the state that travels well to away games," said Athletic Director Corey Parker.

Although some people think there are issues in the student body fan base here at Oyster River. One issue is that fans and current athletes have seen quite an inconsistency between the number of fans attending a certain sporting event rather than others. "I feel across the board that there has been a decline when it comes to the overall fan base, particularly when it not the most popular sport in the school like field hockey." Said Amanda Souvannaseng. Another issue is the difference of the amount of fans showing up to regular season games compared to the amount that shows up to playoff games. "It was pretty decent this year, but not as good as

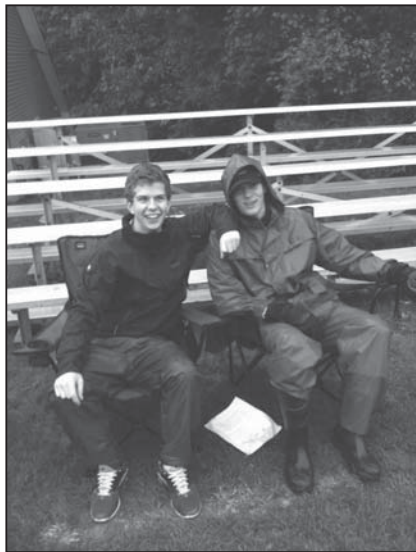
past years, like my freshmen year where there was always a good amount of students at every home sporting event," says Ryan Kerrigan who is always a frequent spectator at games. The last issue that student fans seem to have with this fan base is the restriction of calling out other players on the opposing team during a game or so called "chirping". "I think if people could chirp more than it would be so much more fun to go to sporting events and you would see a rise in attendance. It just adds to the already present fun that we have at sporting events." said fan Hayley Poff.

*"If you aren't that good of a team and your sport generally does not draw in great crowds, then don't expect to have a big fan base at all." -Maggie McNamara*

much in recent years," Halabi adds. Athletic director Corey Parker opposes the viewpoint of Halabi. "I feel like we have a strong fan base in certain sports that other school just don't have, like girls volleyball where you have a lot of fans show up to home games and the opposing team isn't used that amount of people there," says Parker. A certain team success always plays a great factor into whether people show up to certain team's games or not. "I think people are showing up more this year rather than last because they went to certain sporting events last year for certain teams and they watched really good games from them, which could make different fan bases from each sport a bit lopsided," says Seamus Clancy.

"I think a team success and reputation has a lot to do with the amount of fans showing up to their games," said fan Maggie McNamara. "If you aren't that good of a team and your sport

## SHHMON' WHEET



Giles Huddleston and Brennan Young posing for a photo before a soccer game.

generally does not draw in great crowds then don't expect to have a big fan base at all," McNamara adds.

"It has been great this year, I always see people at games, whether it is the dedicated fans that shows up or the occasional fan that comes every few games. No matter what our record is or the opposing team's record is, I am always committed to showing up," says devote student fan Giles Huddleston.

An issue that was discussed as well was how there is a distinct difference between the number of people showing up to regular season games compared to the amount of people who show up to postseason games. "Fans definitely show up to bigger games like a rivalry game or a playoff game, rather than a normal regular season game," soccer player Claire Salmon states. "I didn't really see a major difference in the attendance of people from regular to postseason all that much this year," said soccer player Aidan Conrad. "When it came to the Boys' Soccer team attendance this year I saw consistency throughout the year from our fans." Conrad adds. "The regular season four our team was pretty well numbers wise, but when we hosted a couple of playoff games there was a huge increase in numbers and in overall sprit," says soccer player Hannah Igoe. "I don't think there was a big difference in the attendance from regular season to post season because most of the playoff games were away at other schools or natural sites far from Oyster River and people didn't want to make the trip there," Kerrigan puts.

*"I think we have a very well-rounded fan base. There are always fans at home games and I think were one of the best fan base's in the state that travels well to away games." Corey Parker*

The very last issue that was talked about was the restriction of calling out other players on the opposing team during a game or so called "chirping". "I think chirping is fine as long as you are focusing on a team in whole and not calling out and harassing an opposing player constantly throughout the game." Parker says. "By going to the games and your only real reason to go is to call out opposing players, then you are there for the wrong reason," Parker adds. "If you are going to chirp a player or teams then at least make it good and not have our cheering restricted," Huddleston states. "Chirping is part of watching sports; you get so much more into the game if you are allowed to chirp the opposing team." Souvannaseng puts. "I feel like it gives our team an advantage when we chirp by getting in the heads of the other team and putting more pressure on them not to screw up." Souvannaseng adds. "Chirping is always in good fun and never gets to the point of questioning if that was appropriate to say because it usually never gets to that," said Clancy. "Chirping is to make fun of opposing players, but also to make the people around you laugh as well." Clancy adds.

Student fans and athletes both will have varying opinion of the fan base at Oyster River high school. There will always be issues with a fan base no matter what the level of competition is whether it is high school or college and the pros. There will always be predicaments too like weather or travel, but Oyster River fans are usually very dedicated and will cheer their classmates on until the end. What is very true though about our fan base is that Oyster River sports will always be consistent and accurate representation of our community. Our fans will always show up to games and support all the teams at Oyster River no matter what the season is.





**China Wong**  
Sports Writer

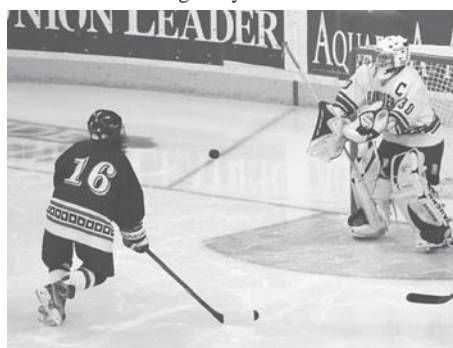
## GIRLS ICE HOCKEY PREVIEW

"Last year we started off very strong by beating Hanover who was undefeated the season before. We kept the momentum going by taking third place going into the playoffs and then we got knocked out by Hanover," said junior defenseman Sandra Strogen. If the Bobcats are going to get back into the final four they will need to have a good start like last season and have that momentum going forward once again. One of the biggest goals this season is "working together as a team and keeping the focus on making it into the playoffs," said Strogen. Another goal is "making the newer members really feel like a part of the team," added junior defenseman Mickayla Hartford. After losing a key member of their offense in Marissa Biederman, the Bobcats have the challenge of "putting the puck in the net," explained Strogen.

The team has a solid number of six returning players (who are all seniors). It is still unknown who will be Captain this year, but Becca Murphy is the top candidate considering she was co-captain last year.

Two years ago the Bobcats made it to the championship game and lost to Hanover, last year they lost in the semi-finals, and this year they hope to bring home their first ever state championship. Another goal for this season is rebuilding the team. The Bobcats will have to work hard and come together as a team if they would like to achieve their ultimate goal of winning the championship. Their biggest rivals this season are Hanover, Lebanon, and Saint Thomas Dover (STD). "Hanover always has a tough team and has strong plays. The STD's are a rival because we live so close to each other and we've always been competing against each other," explained Strogen. According to Strogen, "Emily Croot is definitely someone to watch out for. She is a sophomore goalie and we are expecting to see good things from her in net this year." Hartford added, "The new freshman for sure [are players to look out for]. You never know what you're gonna get."

When asked if this team can win a state championship, Strogen responded, "I think this team definitely has potential to win states this year. We just need to push ourselves on and off the ice. We also need to stay positive and believe that we do have the talent to win the championship." Hartford believes that this team has the ability to win it all, saying, "we've got a lot of talent overall. Even though we lost some key players last year, so did a lot of our biggest competitors, making it a pretty even playing field. I'm looking forward to seeing how the season goes."



*Sandra Strogen approaching the net*  
Courtesy: Piscataquoq Photos

## BOYS ICE HOCKEY PREVIEW



**Eliza Mae Brown**  
Sports Writer

"People aren't giving us enough credit. I think we are really going to come together as a team – this is our year," says junior Cooper Smith as he and his team prepare for the season.

As the season begins, Coach Griffin Richard is already planning out their next step. Although no changes have been made yet, Richard says, "I have some ideas in mind, but experience tells me they're only ideas at this point." Even though Richard is waiting for the season to get going before making any changes, players expect a whole new plan this year.

Every player knows that in order for this season to be successful, the lineup will need to change. After losing two senior all-state players, Owen Allen and Ryan Bishop, new players will need to step up. However, Richard feels very optimistic with the group of returning players. "I think we have three to four guys that could step up and become all-state players in their own rights."

Before this hockey season even began, players were already seeing obstacles they must face. Senior co-captain Griffin Sperry sees defense as one of their largest obstacles and Richard agrees because, "We are inexperienced there." Each player has their own individual weakness they must overcome, but as a team they feel strong. "As a team, I don't think we have any weaknesses...is that a weakness?" asks Smith.

Their strength, which most players agree with, is the forward line. The team has several returning forwards that can score and this includes players like senior capt. Patrick McDonough and junior CJ Jerry. Coming into the new season the team feels very good about their team unity. "Our strengths are playing as a team and having great relationships with another," says Jerry who sees a great opportunity for the team to go farther than anyone expected. Sperry says that there was always a "division of people" on the team in past years but he believes this year the team all likes each other and gets along much better.

Each year the team makes it to the playoffs, proving they deserve to be there, but get knocked out by a tough competitor. In 2010 they lost to Bow in the finals, but managed to make it to the semifinals the following year only to be beaten by Dover. Last year they lost to Bedford 4-1 after making it to the semifinals again. "As many people know, the hockey team has never won a championship; I can assure you that is not due to lack of skill," explains junior Jeff Ahlgrim, one of the remaining defenders who other players see able to fill the skates left behind. Jerry agrees with Ahlgrim and hopes that this year can finally be it. "I feel like we have a good chance this year of getting to the finals, if I had to pick a year to win I would have to pick this one over next year."

Ahlgrim hopes people make an effort to get to games this season, "Fan support helps, so please come out to see us, It doesn't cost a thing." To start the season off fans can show their support at the team's first official home game tomorrow at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 12th against Alvirine at the Whittemore Center.



*The team gathers to listen to Coach Griffin Richard give them*





**Zach Park**  
**Sports Editor**

## SKI TEAM PREVIEW

The Oyster River Ski Team will look to improve on their 4th place finish for girls and 6th place finish for boys in last year's final meet. For their first year in NHIAA Division II, it was a successful season for the Bobcats. With a year of experience under their belt, the OR Ski Team looks to race to the top.

The Bobcats will have to deal with the loss of their top skier, senior Molly McQuade. McQuade will be taking up basketball this upcoming winter season. Despite that loss, the

Bobcats did get some good news: new sophomore Lizzie Silvio should replace McQuade well. Along with seniors Serena Pape and Becca Hoff, the girl's side

should prove to be strong once again. The boy's side should be solid as well with their dynamic duo of sophomores in Liam O'Rourke and Matt Bryant.

Along with O'Rourke and Bryant, the ski team should have a solid group of underclassmen. "Expectations are high this year. I think if the underclassmen can get the job done, then we can be successful," states senior Emmet Todd. The Bobcats possess a good mix of upperclassmen and underclassmen talent to work with going forward.

Hoff says of the ski team, "It's a collection of really good kids who love to ski that don't take themselves too seriously." She adds that the kids take skiing seriously but aren't too hard on themselves. The team doesn't get too caught up if one skier has a bad run. This provides a very welcoming and positive atmosphere for the team.

Despite all these things going for the ski team, there is still a slight issue. The bond between the team has been divided in past years. The upperclassmen haven't associated themselves with the underclassmen enough to create a sense of unity within the team. Hoff says that the team is addressing this issue and looks to do team bonding activities such as going on a team hike before the season.

If the Bobcats can come together and embrace the team despite skiing being an individual sport, the team can make big strides. With some improvement on the slopes, both the boys' and

*"I think if the underclassmen can get the job done, then we can be successful." -Emmet Todd*



*Liam O'Rourke cuts a corner during a race.*

## TRACK AND FIELD PREVIEW

The 2012 Oyster River Track and Field team will be much different than last year's due to the loss of two collegiate athletes in Natalie Bilynsky and Ethan Druskat. These losses will be a huge hurdle for the team, but nevertheless, the team has some good athletes and looks to build for the future.

The boys' side returns two of the four from their relay team in senior Billy Salmon and junior Jan Bartos. With some experience with the relay, the two should be able to mesh with whoever steps in the other two spots. The girls' team returns top hurdler, senior Mandi Lathrop. Lathrop qualified for states and is the best female hurdler on the team. The Bobcats also return senior Shauna Bulger who qualified for states in the pole vault.

Bulger states that she loves the team cohesion and that most of the kids work hard and put forth their best effort but has some words of improvement. "In track, we get all sorts of different kids in terms of how seriously they take it. If we get full commitment from everybody, then we can be successful."

Senior sprinter Kayli Igoe says that Bulger and Lathrop should provide senior leadership and expects to have a solid core. Igoe sees a potential problem for Bulger and Lathrop to solve. "People definitely need to commit to the team. People think it's just a way to work out to stay in shape but we should focus on the sport and come together as a team," states Igoe.

Coach Nick Ricciardi looks to use this season to build for years to come. The Bobcats will likely rebuild rather than reload due to the loss of many quality athletes. Ricciardi believes the loss of these athletes will lead to a chance for the younger kids to step up saying, "We may put a sophomore in rather than a senior so we can get the younger kids prepared and build for the future." This doesn't mean that this season is a complete lost cause for the older kids. Ricciardi will still pick the top athletes, but at the same time will definitely take long term potential into account.



*Seniors leaders Mandi Lathrop, Shauna Bulger and Kayli Igoe pose before practice.*

*"If we get full commitment from everybody, then we can be successful." -Shauna Bulger*

Ricciardi thinks the team has a high knowledge of the sport and has the ability to put the work in to improve. The distance team has always been successful and that shouldn't change this year. They should perform well on the track but Coach Ricciardi sees a slight issue: he wants unity within the distance kids and sprinters. Ricciardi coaches the sprinters while Greg Gephart coaches the distance. Ricciardi believes this is a huge reason for the success of the two sides but believes the cohesion between the two isn't there. "What makes our team so successful is what also causes a divide." Ricciardi loves that the sprinters and distance runners are getting their proper coaching but would love to see them come together more.

Coach Ricciardi says that one of his favorite parts of being a track coach is that there are never any losers. It's about personal bests and there's always a way to find success. While they may not be contending for a state championship, Ricciardi and the Bobcats can still make the upcoming season a successful one.



**Nick Lazar**  
**Sports Writer**

## GIRLS BASKETBALL AND SWIMMING AND DIVING PREVIEWS

The Oyster River girls basketball team is coming off a "not so stellar season" says girls varsity coach Dave Nichols. "It was not the season I really expected coming into last year and I think the record reflected that." The girls team finished with a below five hundred record of 6-12-0. This year they lose two critical seniors who were in the starting lineup last year in Izzy Gorham and Riley Maynard. They also lose senior Kelsey Brown to the Tilton School, a highly regarded prep school for basketball. "Losing those two players hurt, but we will have to find two players to fill in for them this year," Nichols says. The returning players for this girls basketball team are now seniors Allie Harris, Megan Comeau, Eliza MacDonald, Sarah Huston, and Cassidy Kolter. Returning juniors for this team are Claire Salmon, Jenny Mistretta, and Claire McCarthy.



*Claire Salmon practices free throws as she prepares for the season.*

This year's outlook on the team success seems to have mixed emotions. "I feel like we will be as good as we were the season before, maybe better if players on our team developed and improved over the off season," says junior Claire Salmon. Coach Nichols has other thoughts to the prediction of how the season will play out. "If we play solid defense and let our offense come to us then we could be better from a year ago." Junior Jenny Mistretta has a very neutral viewpoint to this upcoming season. "We could be either good or bad this year, but if we try and play hard, I think we will get the eventual results that we are looking for."

When asking about as a whole team's perspective what their strengths and weakness were there was a consensus answer. "Our biggest strength this year is our physical presence down low in the paint where we have both Claire Salmon and McCarthy who are both above 6'1 which gives us great size down there," coach Nichols iterates. "We definitely have good size in the four and five positions which will help our overall defense," says Mistretta.

Salmon thinks their biggest weakness as a team this year is "depth" in all of the positions this year. "We don't have a very deep team talent-wise, which hurts, but that doesn't mean we still can't be a good team." Nichols adds on by saying "In recent years we have had great off the bench players. This year is different, we are going to have inexperienced players or underclassmen who have never played varsity ball before and will have trouble adjusting to it."

As the team gears up for this upcoming season, they are all hoping for a successful season and not the results that they had last year. Look

*"If we play solid defense and let our offense come to us, then we could be better from a year ago." -Coach Nichols*

for Coach Nichols to take more underclassmen than last year with only having eight current roster players. "I am not afraid of taking underclassmen, never have been, but this year in particular there are going to be quite a few on the team," says Nichols. This team will have a lot to figure out in the beginning of the season with three vital players being replaced from a year ago, but, it should make for an interesting season to watch as the year progresses.

This year's Swimming and Diving team is coming off a successful year, but lost a great amount of seniors and will have to rely on more underclassmen than usual. In a whole they lost eleven seniors on both squads of Swimming and Diving. The boys' team lost Joe Lane, Joel Bates, Alex Jones, Parker Eastman, Scott Filion, and Jack Collopy. The girls' team lost Katie Burzon, Maura Collopy, Julie Roehrig, and Emma Rotner. This year's team has very few upperclassmen, one of them being junior Drew Thibault who says this year will be a lot more "challenging" than last year losing all of the seniors from a year ago. "I think this is a rebuilding year for us on the boy's side because of the loss of leadership and talent that the senior class had. As a team were all going to have to step it up this year if we want to have the same success as last year" Thibault says.

*"The underclassmen this year are definitely an advantage that we didn't have a year ago." -Drew Thibault*

When asking about this year's Swimming and Diving team's strengths and weakness, there was a general consensus between all of members. "Our two biggest strengths this year are our underclassmen and the chemistry we have as a team," junior Haley Jones claims. "This year's freshmen class is very strong, hopefully they can contribute a lot to the team's success this year and for years to come," Jones adds. The freshmen in particular that look to



*Returning swim member Haley Jones dives into the pool at the start of a race (courtesy of Rachel Murphy)*

have a big year are swimmers Matt Jones and Tessa Oakes. Both are very fast swimmers for their age and bring natural talent to this year's swimming squad. "They're both really good swimmers already. I see them helping out in a big way this year," sophomore Ella Cedarholm states. Look for this year's underclassmen to contribute in a big way this year.

"We are a very close group, which makes our team even that much better" adds Cedarholm.

"I think it is huge to have good chemistry, it helps when you are either swimming or diving and having your teammates cheering you on during your event."

"I feel like our biggest weakness this year is the lack of experience and leadership that we have, as compared to last year where we had a lot of it" said Cedarholm. "We have a very small team number wise this year compared to the year before which is tough, but were going to have overcome that and just compete," says Thibault.

This year's team is going to be very young and inexperienced with the more underclassmen than upperclassmen, but doesn't mean they won't have similar success as a year ago. "If we compete and try really hard at every meet and event, then I think we will have a real good team" said Thibault. Look for the girl's side of the team to have a better year than the boys because the boys lost six very talented seniors from a year ago. The Swimming and Diving team will have a lot to prove this year in order to have a great year and show how they can still be effective even without senior leadership that they had from last year.





**China Wong**  
**Sports Writer**

# OYSTER RIVER BOYS BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW

After a losing record of 6-12 and coming in 17th overall in the division, the Bobcats were unable to make it into the playoffs last season.

Returning as Head Coach is Stuart Mitchell and although he has lost three seniors, this team has a lot of experience to bring to the table.

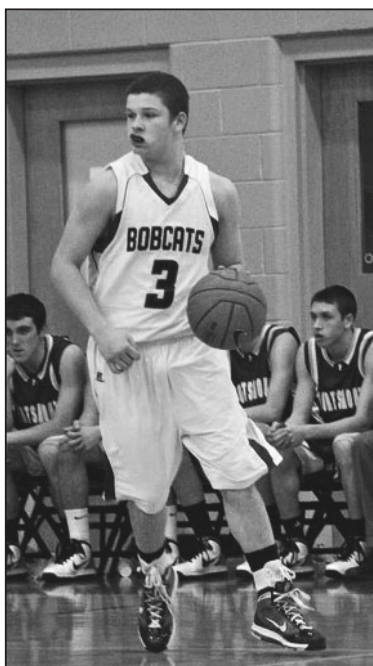
According to senior Sam Lewis, this year's team has great potential. "We are not a group of highly skilled superstar players but I feel as though we can come together and become a highly skilled team. Our strengths reside in speed and effort. I have high hopes for this season." Senior forward Jake Smith added, "I feel the team will do much better this year than last because we have more experience on the team." The Bobcats are returning ten players, nine of which are seniors. Coach Mitchell added, "I am looking forward to working with this years players, especially the seniors. I think we all felt under-achieved last year."

According to Lewis, one of the goals this season is to create a team. "When this group of kids was on JV, the biggest strength was we all believed in and supported every other player on the court. I also hope to create a playoff team that makes it deep into the season," explained Lewis.

Smith also hopes for a playoff spot this season, saying, "This year I'd like to have at least a home playoff game. Ideally I would like to make it to the semi-finals."

Smith also added that he would like to have "better team chemistry than last year." Mitchell agreed with Smith, stating that his biggest goal is to have better team chemistry. He also added that he expects the team to make it to the playoffs this year.

Although captains have not been chosen yet, there is a strong chance that three of these five seniors will be chosen to do the job. Those seniors may include Jake Smith, Antho-



Anthony Shea dribbles the basketball.  
Courtesy: Rachel Murphy

*"I have high hopes for this season."  
-Jake Smith*

The Bobcats' biggest rivals this year will be local teams Saint Thomas and Coe Brown. "Saint Thomas and Coe Brown will be tough to face because of the high level of rivalry that exists between our schools," said Lewis. Smith added, "I'm not quite sure what the other

teams talents will be, but I think Pembroke will be our hardest game."

The Bobcats' first game is on December 24th and every game is scheduled to start at 6:30 pm.

When asked some of the challenges the team will face this season, Lewis responded that "finding a style, and becoming a team that lives by that style" is a challenge that the team will have to work on accomplishing. Smith believes the most challenging part of this season will be the offensive side of things, saying, "I think scoring the ball will be our biggest challenge. We're a great defensive team but we can have trouble putting the ball in the hoop."

"I am expecting that one of our strengths will be our senior leadership. And our biggest weakness will be overcoming last years troubles," explained Coach Mitchell.

According to Mitchell the key to success is "If we can come together as a team and all of us accept our roles, then no matter what our record ends up to be we will have had a successful season."

**Who:** OR Varsity Boys Basketball

**What:** Season Preview

**When:** First Game is on December 24 at 6:30 pm.

**Where:** For a full schedule go to nhiaa.org. All home games are scheduled to start at 6:30 pm in the High School Gymnasium.

**Why:** The Bobcats wish to bounce back from a 17th place finish in the division and hope for a chance to play in the playoffs.

**Team Captains:** Unknown but potentially (Sr.) Jake Smith, (Sr.) Anthony Shea, and (Sr.) Zack Jones

**Potential Starting Five Players:** Anthony Shea (Point Guard), Zack Jones (Guard), Nick Lazar (Guard), Jake Smith (Center) and Sam Lewis (Forward)

## FAVORITE XMAS MOVIES

**Cody Kondrantenko - The Grinch:** "I think it's the conflict that makes it interesting; you have The Grinch who wants nothing more than to ruin Christmas for Whoville. Then he sees Cindy-Lou and I forget what happens in between but his heart grows three times. It shows the Grinch's perseverance. It's just a lovely story. It also expresses that Christmas isn't all about the gifts."

**Hannah Igoe - Rudolph:** "It's a classic."

**Dayne Sawtelle - The Grinch (cartoon):** "It's sexy."

**Andy McQuade - Home Alone:** "It's legit, it's sick. The boy has a lot of passion for what he does."

**Caitlin Coxen: Elf-** "It's funny and I know all the lines and he always makes me laugh... There's room for everyone on the nice list'."